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Site by Site Accomplishments in Anti-Hunger Projects

Key to USDA Agencies

FS = Forest Service, NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service, ARS = Agricultural Research Service, RECD = Rural Economic and Community Development, FCS = Food and Consumer Service

FCS Vermont

The program recruited, hired, and trained all staff in anticipation of the project starting in January of 1995. A massive recruitment drive for Members occurred across the state. As a result, 1,000 individuals were sent application packets, 500 organizations in Vermont received application packets for distribution among their constituencies, 24 radio stations received a public announcement on the program, a press release was sent to all daily Vermont papers, three radio and one television interviews were conducted, seven regional community meetings were held, and team leaders and staff visited more than 100 community groups, organizations, and schools to provide program information. Formed state-wide advisory board consisting of 23 experts from government and non-profit agencies.

FCS District of Columbia

FCS Members assisted 200 senior citizens in filling out Food Stamps applications. During a recent immunization campaign, the Members teamed up with local WIC clinics to promote immunization. Members produced and distributed 20 informational posters, distributed 300 informational flyers, and made 150 reminder phone calls to relevant families. Members worked at regional food banks where they sorted over 70,000 pounds of food, assisted in mailing 7,000 fundraising mailers, served 1,000 people in directly serving food at local soup kitchens.

FCS Milwaukee

Members queried 128 pantries and meal programs in need of repair or renovation. Members conducted infrastructure renovation of the Hunger Task Force's warehouse distribution area by painting, dry-walling, and completing concrete work. Members worked in nine area food pantries sorting, packaging, and distribution of food. Members contacted 130 regional pantries and meal programs to inform them about the Earned Income Tax Credit.

FCS Mississippi

Members surveyed 60 households of which 29 have been referred to obtain food stamp assistance. Members conducted a Nutrition and Food Safety Workshop for the elderly in which 36 seniors participated. Members provided widespread information regarding nutrition, food safety, food service agencies, and fire safety by distributing 400 leaflets to low-income people in the area.

FCS Los Angeles

The objective is to create one community garden at one school. One school garden site has been picked and three existing gardens at other schools have been improved.

The objective is to develop a nutritional education presentation to be held at 10 schools. Members have developed "Healthy Eating is Fun," a nutrition education presentation/skit, and will soon be giving it to ten local schools.

The objective is to conduct campaigns designed to increase participation in the school breakfast program. Members have developed presentations for 200 area schools.

The objective is to perform community outreach for nutrition promotion. Two outreach teams, one at local WIC offices and another at San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, serve an average of 200 people four days a week.

The objective is to provide assistance to victims of the Northridge earthquake. Approximately 200 people have been impacted by this team and its efforts.

The objective is to start three new community gardens. Work is being done at Burlington Garden, Tieffa De La Culebra, and Watt's Jordan Downs Housing Project.

Site by Site Accomplishments in Environmental Projects

Projects are managed by the Forest Service (FS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

NRCS Kansas, statewide

Members worked at reservoirs severely damaged by the floods of 1993.

At Webster, Members fixed 2 miles of fence, cleaned 5 miles of shoreline, removed 160 damaged trees, and dug footing for Boy Scout cabin.

At Kannopolis, Members cleared 3 miles of trails, dug and replanted 40 trees, wired and weighted 40 tires to create fish habitat, tied together, weighted, and dumped into lake 60 trees to create fish habitat, captured prairie dogs and relocated them in flood damaged area, built two nesting structures, and cleared park area from debris from ice storm.

At Perry, Members repaired 50 picnic tables, restored four restrooms, repaired one bridge, maintained several miles of road, cleaned up ice storm damage in nearby Valley Falls, created five brushpiles for habitat, trimmed 3 miles of trees on dikes, and built and sunk three fish habitats.

At Milford, Members cleaned outdoor learning classroom for Wakefield School, District, cleaned debris from 2 miles of wildlife and park roads, posted signs on 15 miles of roads, salvaged seven tons of fish, stocked trout at Tuttle Creek, cleaned storm damage at Pottawatomie State Park, and completed deer surveys.

At Glen Elder, Members placed 40 cedar trees in the lake for fish habitat, fixed 15 gates, fixed 290 miles of fence, built three back drops for hunter target shooting, conducted two wildlife surveys, posted 300 signs on 75 miles of park roads, repaired five vehicles, rebuilt a toilet, and filled 25 bags with grass seed.

In Western Kansas, Members began repairing, rehabilitating, and re-planting windbreaks created by the original Civilian Conservation Corps.

NRCS Western Oklahoma

Restored 15 windbreaks on 7.5 miles of land in five counties. Four of the windbreaks have already been responsible for decreasing soil erosion. Held educational seminars on windbreaks to six different groups. One quarter of the counties in Western Oklahoma have now received requests for windbreak restoration.

NRCS Texas Coast (Baytown)

Members cleaned and mowed five, 10-meter by 75-meter ponds, vegetated two acres of marsh demonstration projects, harvested and threshed by hand 4 acres of smooth cordgrass seed, harvested by hand and then planted 800 mangrove seeds, harvested and planted 2,000 Scirpus robustus seeds, harvested, threshed, and planted 1,000 Scirpus californicus seeds. Members also repaired 1,000 feet of fence at the Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Members also assisted the Red Cross in flood relief efforts in the Houston area by loading and unloading trucks and delivering supplies to local flood victims.

NRCS Metropolitan Atlanta, GA

Members conducted water quality monitoring at thirty locations throughout the Big Creek Watershed. Stenciled ten percent of the drains the City of Alpharetta with no dumping signs. In one neighborhood, Members benefitted 400 residents by cleaning eight acres, mulching 1,000 feet of walking trails, placing three waterbars into trails, seeded 1/2 acre, and carried away six dump trucks of trash. They cleaned two city parks, removing two dump trucks full of trash; performed streambank stabilization work on a 100 feet by 50 feet section of the Chattahoochee River; built a greenhouse for use as a plant materials center and began constructing a nature trail at the North Metro Technical Institute in Acworth.

Boston, MA

Members were recruited and selected for a program that began on December 5, 1994. In December, members performed maintenance work on three acres on city parks, and planted trees on two, 1-acre sites.

New Jersey, state-wide

Completed stream walks on four streams to categorize and map potential non-point pollution in the South Branch Raritan River watershed. Desnagged and reestablished stone reflectors in two streams to improve fish habitat and removed debris and reseeded 375 feet of streambank to reduce erosion and improve water quality. Designed and flagged 500 feet of trail in the Muscecong watershed. Erected a playground set at Lake Hopatcong state park.

District of Columbia/Beltsville

Members worked with the Izaak Walton League in Charles County, Maryland to complete four erosion control structures on a site that will be open to the public. They pulled plants and completed field work in greenhouse and conducted landscaping activities at the Beltsville National Plant materials Center. Members cleaned-up Lake Atemesia and completed site assessment.

District of Columbia - National Arboretum

The members completed the first two stages of restoring the Azalea overlook, cut to the ground and removed the above-ground sections of the Boxwood collection, cleared weeds and vines to restore 150 yards of Juniper hedge, weeded around Crabapple trees, removed weed trees and vines from existing trees on the mall.

Chicago

Member spent 10 days at Lathrop Homes maintaining and beautifying streambanks, preparing and seeding berm seedbed, and serving meals to the homeless on Thanksgiving. Member served the remainder of the quarter at eight different locations creating a safe-haven lot, cleaning-up a lagoon in Washington Park, landscaping at a public high school, remodeling and preparing a play lot at Kennicott Park, helping organize a "Neighbors Against Gang Violence - Day of Dead Memorial," remodeling the Donnelly Youth Center, and planting bulbs at the Fellowship Youth Center.

Pittsfield, Illinois

In areas generally damaged by the floods of 1993, Members developed 1.3 miles of hiking trails, improved 5 acres of camp sites, and pruned 5 acres of evergreen trees at a Pittsfield City park. Members also removed about 15 tons of debris (tires, appliances, automobiles, etc.) from half a mile of a stream that outlets into a city owned recreation lake for the city of Rushville. In Kampsville, Members replaced 75 feet of sidewalks damaged during the flood. members also renovated a building used by Calhoun County for storage and removed brush and weeds from public property. In Quincy, Members removed vines, brush, and weeds from city owned property and assisted in renovating a building as part of revitalizing uptown Quincy. Members in Quincy also removed bricks from an historic alley, reshaped the alley, and replaced the bricks.

NRCS East St. Louis, IL

Members have established nurseries at East St. Louis Senior High School, Lovejoy High School, and Gains Park, removed debris and broken materials from the greenhouse at East St. Louis Senior High, cleaned out a fountain in Jones Park, assisted Operation NewSpirit in planting bulbs throughout East St. Louis. To prepare for vacant lot renovations next quarter, they have solicited over 30 applications for lot renovation, conducted on-site analysis of the lots, and prepared detailed stenciled drawings for all the sites selected.

NRCS, Portland, OR

Members at the Whitaker Pond Restoration improved 150 feet of bank along the east pond by removing pest species including blackberries, night shade, and everlasting pea; the area was revegetated with a variety of native species, and compost was spread over the entire planting site to improve growing conditions. Trash such as tires and lumber was removed from the pond. Members also canvassed neighborhoods adjacent to the ponds to distribute flyers about the first workshop to solicit public input and involvement in the planning process.

Members also revegetated 3 acres on the northern portion of Fairview Creek, and mentored 20 high school students who removed blackberries and canary grass and revegetated the banks along another 200 feet of the Creek. They also relocated geese from a Metro park to a Humane Society Pond site. They also worked on a project in St. Johns with the non-profit organization Friends of Trees, removing 50 diseased trees and replacing them with 80 trees more appropriate for the area. The Members worked side-by-side with 80 different community volunteers who served 450 hours.

NRCS, Goldendale, Washington

Member rebuilt a half-mile stretch of fence that protects a key riparian area along the Little Kickitat River. Protected water quality on one mile of stream by treating 300 acres with log check dams across steep slopes and installed eight sediment retention dams. Protected Pine Creek by installing eight log check dams. Built a new playground at a Head Start School sponsored by the Yakima Indian Reservation. Removed dozens of pick-up loads of dead and dying trees and public lands and provided as firewood for low-income families.

San Bernardino NF, Southern CA

Members rehabilitated 12,000 acres of the area burned by fire on the Arrowhead and Big Bear Ranger Districts on the forest. This fire stripped the hills of essential vegetation. Preventing erosion was the primary goal of the rehabilitation work.

Six Rivers NF, Northern CA

Members rehabilitated 3.5 miles of trails to be used by hikers and horse riders. Members rehabilitated and expanded their dormitory and their dining hall for their own use and that of all future AmeriCorps programs. Members reforested 10 acres of an old gold mine waste area in order to restore riparian vegetation, increase wildlife habitat, and control erosion on Red Cap Creek. They collected and processed 15,000 willow cuttings for propagation in future riparian revegetation projects. One crew participated in service-learning project in which they received credit from local college for an anadromous fisheries class and then rehabilitated a half a mile of stream by building 16 in-stream structures composed of large woody debris and boulders.

One Member working in a Rural Development Team-type "Internship" completed a lobby display for a Forest office, created a display for the Eureka Chamber of Commerce's Pride of Humboldt room, and reformatted three different Recreational Opportunity Guides for public use. Members also performed selected service projects in Humboldt County such as tutoring children, helping senior citizens, and contributing to a blood drive. One Member has been selected through state-wide competition to serve on the California Commission on Improving Life Through Service "AmeriCorps Member Ad-Hoc Committee." Congressman Dan Hamburg sent a representative to the project's launch.

FS, Rouge River, OR

Member planted 2,390 trees in several campgrounds to restore overused areas. Another Member completely restored kitchen shelter at the McKee Bridge picnic area that was originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. In order to both enhance fish habitat and clear out manzanita bushes to help timber stands better grow, Members pruned 4000 manzanita bushes and anchored them in the Applegate Reservoir to improve native fish habitat. They pruned second growth trees to improve forest health on 55 acres of land; and built a nature trail -- complete with an outdoor classroom and bench areas along the route -- for a local school. Members rehabilitated and expanded their dormitory and their dining hall for their own use and that of all future AmeriCorps programs.

FS, Olympic, WA

Members have maintained 4 miles of trails, rehabilitated campground sites, completed handicapped access in six developed recreation sites, completed restoration on two historic sites, survey Threatened and Endangered Species habitat on 700 acres, installed 1,500 feet of fence, and hand-pruned 120 acres of timber stands. Members replaced the roofs on two county-owned recreational centers originally built by Civilian Conservation Corps Members.

Arizona National Forests

Members maintained 15 miles of trails, rehabilitated 10 campground sites, performed maintenance at three campgrounds, protected and improved wildlife habitat on 300 acres, built half a mile of range fence, removed 2.5 miles of fence, rehabilitated two range waterlots, and obliterated two miles of road and returned to natural state.

Bienville NF, MS

Member brushed 1.8 miles of footpaths on the Bienville Scenic Pine Trail. The Members completed 19 miles of heavy brushing and adding clay-gravel to the Shockaloe Trail low areas. The Members are constantly performing regular road maintenance. The Members have made numerous repair to water leaks and filled dirt around outdoor Sweet-Smelling toilets. The Members developed food plots by seeding and planting desirable grasses on approximately five acres of wildlife habitat.

Green Mountain NF, VT

The AmeriCorps team starts in January, 1995. Staff is actively recruiting Corps Members during this preparational first quarter. Currently, there are 14 Corps Member offers - 12 accepted, one declined, and one is trying to work out an apartment lease situation. The Corps Members range in age from 18-to-53 years old, and education levels range from high school to master's degree.

White Mountain NF, NH

The White Mountain AmeriCorps program begins on January 14, 1995. The project is gearing up, hiring crew leaders and AmeriCorps Members.

NRCS South Dakota

Members based in Huron helped conduct 10 sessions in elementary classrooms during American Indian Heritage Month in the City of Clark. Members also utilized new Geographical Information System technology to electronically map soil surveys, section numbers, town names, creek names, farmstead locations, range and township values in order to improve local land use decisions and speed the application of conservation methods.

Members are developing exhibit to demonstrate to cattlemen the benefits of managing

riparian and upland vegetation areas along waterways, including during period of flooding. Prepared a twelve-page report, a two-page fact sheet, and color overhead transparencies to help with presentations to explain to farmers how they can economically use sustainable agriculture techniques.

Members in Brookings, Mitchell, and Huron completed Natural Resource Inventory maps for 12 counties and are engaged in a wide variety of mapping, communications, and database collection tasks to accelerate information outreach and technical help to farmers in three of South Dakota's flood-impacted counties.

Members in Brookings and Mitchell completed an inventory of 198 riparian sites.

Members are also volunteering with the local Salvation Army and coaching a team of the city's volunteer-based hockey program.

NRCS Nebraska

Based in Omaha, Members provided markers for 400 acres and provided timber marking for 160 acres owned by the Winnebago Tribe. Designed three recreation trails, mulched and maintained a heavily used urban nature trail, cleaned up an urban wetland "Heron Haven" owned by the local Audubon Club, and started a "Cans for Corps" recycling project.

Based in Lincoln, Members revitalized the Lincoln Normal historical project, improved 20 miles of recreation trails, and publicly promoted the Shop Smart (Saving Money and Reducing Trash) recycling program.

Based in Tecumseh, Members assisted in the assessment and debris removal from 14 suites at the National Arbor Day Foundation headquarters damaged by the 1993 floods. Helped prepare an inspection and maintenance report of flood control and public recreation areas impacted by the 1993 flood. Members maintained and improved historical sites at the Captain Bailey Museum in Brownville and the Merriweather Lewis Dredge recreation area.

Based in Norfolk, Members performed recreation and conservation work in Lower Elkhorn River area, maintenance and improvements at the Willow Creek Recreation area and the Norfolk public parks, and promotional assistance to the "Keep Norfolk Beautiful" public project.

Site by Site Accomplishments in Rural Development Projects

Projects are managed by the Forest Service (FS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and the combined agencies of Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD).

NEW ENGLAND

Maine

Members based in Portland visited and conducted seminars on water quality in five local schools, edited and finalized a Casco Bay Watershed Land Use Inventory report.

Based in Edgecomb, Member sorted 78 samples of ichthoplankton, identifying eggs and larvae in the samples, in order to aid in the transportation of striped bass through located and protecting spawning areas in the Kennebec and Eastern Rivers. Transferred 20,000 individual shads from grow-out ponds into a re-stocking truck.

In Houlton, Member completed sanitary survey on Shin Pound to help community residents make future decisions about how to best protect the health of their lake.

In Machias, Member received funding from the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission to set-up a statewide series of best management practices for blueberry growers; began implementation of workshops. Member also working to assist local towns to fund septic system replacements/installations. Member completed shoreline survey of Beals Island/Great Wass Island.

In Presque Isle, Member located and identified stream suitable for streamside installation of boxes for salmonid spawning, rearing, and staging,

In Presque Isle, Members worked with 12 teachers to begin implementing an "Adopt-a-Stream curriculum in their classrooms.

In Carribou, Member helped supervised a Youth Community Action Crew in creating an All Terrain Vehicle Trail by building a bridge, clearing trees blown down over the route, re-decking two existing bridges, and cleaning culverts that beavers had dammed. Member also worked to improve a snowmobile trail by building a bridge and by adding railings to an existing bridge.

In Cumberland County, Member promoted an Envirothon natural resources competition by

visiting 18 schools that did not participate in the previous year's competition. Member developed Adopt-a-Stream programs with YMCA school groups, engaging 80 students grades K-5 in activities ranging from building their own model watershed to visiting the actual stream to monitor for water quality and pollution. Member has provided water quality presentations to 37 students and six teachers. In Waldoboro, the Mid-Coast Fisheries Team completed a shoreline survey for Merry Cove and Beals Island and documented several sources of pollution, instituted a contingency sampling program in Waldoboro and Isesboro for their area shellfish management plan by doing storm-drain event monitoring, began sampling the West Branch of the Medomak River. Member also provided environmental training and technical assistance to the Portland Youth Conservation Corps, York High School, Boothbay Regional High School, Lincoln Academy, Camden-Rockport High School, Wiscasset High School, and Medomak Valley High School and conducted classroom presentations on wetlands and water quality to 160 students for the Maine Children's Water Festival.

In Cherryfield, Member assisted in the establishment of a pilot Integrated Pest Management Program for cranberry growers to help the growers economically reduce the amount of pesticides that end up in the groundwater, assisted with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's upland cranberry bed demonstration project, and has visited lands of 13 cranberry growers to provide personal assistance.

In Framington, Member collected, revised, adapted, copied, and distributed a 20-page packet of educational materials including lessons plans on water quality, the water cycle, water conservation, and preventing surface and groundwater pollution to 16 Soil and Water Conservation District.

At Beals Island Hatchery and Education Center, the Member facilitated three cooperative agreements between University of Maine at Machias, University of Maine Orono Cooperative Extension, and Maine Department of Environmental Resources in order to integrate hands-on water quality testing and shoreline sampling experience into the Environmental Chemistry and Special Topics in Environmental Sciences courses. Helped facilitate workshop for loggers on how they can improve water quality.

Vermont

Members on the Vermont Fire Protection project contacted 48 fire Departments in Vermont, installed one dry fire hydrant, performed 30 dry fire-hydrant site surveys, and initiated and participated in meetings with Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont Fire Safety Association, Vermont Fire Chiefs Association, and Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

Members on the Winooski River Project conducted a 21-mile reconnaissance survey from Jonesville to Essex Junction Vermont to evaluate the state of erosion control and bioengineering measures installed in the late 1930's in order to improve current conservation measures.

APPALACHIA

WEST VIRGINIA

Members developed a survey for the technical assistance, technology, and training needs for the West Virginia University Appalachia Hardwood Center; assisted with implementation of a business retention and expansion program including the production and distribution of a monthly newsletter that is intended to improve dialogue, link communities together, and provide funding opportunities; developed a computer program for West Virginia Division of Forestry that allows small business owners to calculate costs of producing various materials for long-term investment strategies.

The Barbour County Economic Development Authority is using their Members time to implement a business retention and expansion program. Nine presentations have been made to industry/business/community groups describing program objectives. The Member is taking the lead on the production and distribution of a monthly letter that is distributed to business, government, and community leaders throughout the county that is intended to improve dialogue, link communities together, and provide funding opportunities, etc. Two issues have been published to date.

RECD West Virginia

One Member contacted 32 local businesses to participate in a business retention and expansion survey. In Logan County, Member assisted the organization of nine local rural communities so they can bring resources together to effectively reduce certain criminal activities. Another Member served on the organization and implementation committee for Tug River Health Clinic and sent surveys to all employers, child care providers, parents to collect data to apply for a grant to establish a clinic. Another Member handled coordination of the county-wide clean up campaign, and make regular progress notes on the action pursued by the county in their EZ/EC implementation plans. In Fairmont, Member organized a Community Service Day for the all Northern West Virginia AmeriCorps members in which they worked at the Union Mission of Fairmont to help decorate for the youth holiday party, tape plastic to windows in the homeless shelter, and prepare information packets for a fundraising event. In Wilcoe, Member also sent surveys to prominent businesses in McDowell County that employ 25 people or more, in-home day care providers, private day care owners, and parents of Head Start children to collect data to include in grant applications to obtain funding for local day care programs. In Williamson, member assisted in helping 30 families apply for rental housing assistance.

NRCS West Virginia

In Middlebourne, the Member worked to develop a pond system for the production of striped bass on a commercial basis. He also began forming an organization of warm water fish producers in the area. He also organized a dry fire hydrant in the area by working with fire departments and local communities to get access to water for rural fire protection.

Based in Morgantown, the Member performed an archaeologist inventory on five major sites in economically depressed sites around the state in order to provide cultural resource protection through inventory, investigation, and documentation of sites. At one site, he discovered three historic and one pre-historic sites that he will be documenting. He also worked with another AmeriCorps member to develop Fort Randolph -- a Civil War fort in Point Pleasant -- for public use.

In Huntington, the member is delineating wetlands and helping design conservation plans for those wetlands.

In Kingwood, the Member performed soil nutrient content analysis and animal manure nutrient analysis in order to improve local water quality. In Morefield, the Member performed nutrient and pesticide management activities to improve the local water quality. The two members have provided assistance on a combined total of 1,000 acres.

RECD Virginia

Member in Virginia has been conducting outreach on home ownership and home repair programs.

FS Virginia

Member developed a video program showing natural resources on the National Forest, State and private lands to promote recreation resources, and tourism in the region and worked with fire departments on dry hydrant (drafting hydrants at ponds) program in VA.

NRCS Virginia

Members in Keysville conducted inventory of local dry fire hydrants, started developing a forestry product marketing plan, prepared site plan for a local greenway trail, began inventory of the site for the Staunton River Battlefield Park, and searched for artifacts to use in a visitors center.

Members in New River-Highlands have begun implementing an outdoor education center.

RECD North Carolina

In Jefferson, Member is helping finance home improvements for very low-income families in Ashe County. To do so, she established working relationships with the Ashe County Council on Aging and Allegheny County Senior Center to determine how FmHA programs could better serve the elderly residents in the counties.

In Hendersonville, Member is helping finance home improvements for very low-income families in Ashe County. To do so, he established relationships with the Housing Assistance Corporation and the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission so that they will now package applications for FmHA housing loans. He also met with several individuals to educate them about the USDA programs, and processed two loans to make repairs to low-income individuals.

In Waynesville, the Member is working towards establishing a good, trusting relationship with the Cherokee Indian Reservation and to make the residents aware of various USDA home ownership and repair programs.

In Boone, the member is working with the Enterprise Community (EC) applicant of Boone to implement their strategic plan. Working in cooperation with the Boone Housing Authority, she is organizing and making functional a Community Development Corporation (CDC) to assist the low-income residents of Boone. To date, over \$1.8 million has been awarded for water and sewer infrastructure and housing assistance as a result of her help.

In Marshall, Member works with the Enterprise Community applicant of Madison County, through the Madison Department of Social Services. In this capacity, she helps with in-home serves to assist individuals and families with home management tasks to enable them to maintain self-sufficiency and avoid out of home placement. Regina has increased the number of families served by the county by even. In addition, she serves 13 other families by assessing the client's functional abilities in the areas of physical health, mental health, social support, activities of daily living, environmental conditions, and finances. She also assessed 15 families and placed the families on waiting lists for services and/or referred them to other agencies.

FS North Carolina

Members completed a needs analysis of parks and recreation centers; worked with city of Asheville on Adaptive Programs; completed an inventory of parks and recreation facilities and developed a Parks and Recreation Department proposal on the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

RECD Tennessee

Member in Jonesborough has begun a survey of local housing needs.

Members in Oneida, Tazewell, and Campbell County have begun researching and writing grants for critical services for their counties.

Member in Hancock County has begun implementing the Empowerment Zone strategic plan throughout the region.

Member in Greene County has been assisting low-income citizens to apply for grants and loans to repair their homes for health and safety standards.

Member in Johnson County is helping the county install and regulate an 911 emergency response system.

NRCS Tennessee

In Rutledge, Members working on the Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative interviewed 43 federal, state, and local tourism professionals, six independent consultants, and 64 local citizens to initially assess project feasibility, community attitudes, tourism development processes, and sources of funding or technical assistance. Established the first-ever tourism advisory board in the region. Began a community-based initiative in Hancock and Grainger Counties to provide technical assistance and "hands-on" service in the establishment and renovation of county museums.

In Cookeville, Members have created a database to track the status of solid waste/recycling progress in each of 14 counties. Members also began a 14-county poster contest in local schools with the theme "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." Successfully convinced 16 schools to start on-site recycling programs. Members have also presented eight environmental education programs to 400 students.

Based in Waverly, Members have significantly improved and expanded the Humphreys County Soil Conservation District environmental center, also known as the Blue Creek Nature Center. Members developed one new trail and improved existing trails. Members conducted six nature tours involving 199 students and 63 adults.

Members based in the Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council in Jackson have dewatered 2.5 million gallons of waste from the storage facilities of five local landowners, and collected soil samples at those sites to ensure safe discharge. Members also created a curriculum on environmental education, including 20 lesson plans and 10 separate activity sheets, and delivered the program, to 20 students.

In Whitley County, Member worked with the Whitley County Communities for Children to provide five cows and two bulls to low-income farm families; the first calf will be given back after mating in order to be delivered to another farm family. Member also delivered 10 Thanksgiving baskets to low-income families.

In Morristown, the Member has conducted conservation outreach to local landowners, installed conservation measures, and has significantly increased the number of local landowners expressing interest in conservation practices. She also began biological studies of local streams to assess their impact upon the watershed.

FS Tennessee

Member developed an infrastructure database; served as project manager for the historic Stearns building renovation project; and administered the Folk Life Study on historical buildings, people, and local folklore in Kentucky.

Member developed a marketing program for recyclable materials; a program called "Garbage Busters" was developed for second graders; grants were written for various proposals and one was approved for a "Learn and Service America" program that focuses on recycling management for elementary students in a five-county area; prepared articles for local newspapers entitled "Trashy Talk"; and completed a presentation for a public education program on oil recycling in Tennessee.

RECD Kentucky

In Magoffin County, the Member is developing, organizing, and implementing a community-based recreational program for teenagers.

In Owsley County, Member created and help obtain grant for East Kentucky Goat Producers Association to focus on agricultural diversification. Member also had photograph taken with the Governor in recognition of his service helping obtain a school-to-work grant for the area.

In Frankfort, the Member completed a survey to determine how local service agencies can better help at-risk families.

In Bell County, Member helped the local Industrial Foundation obtain a \$201,000 grant.

Another Member produced a brochure to help increase tourism to the nearby Kentucky Craft Village. Member is also planning instruction workshops for 15 local craft producers.

In Cumberland Valley. Member assisted in the creation of a Family Preservation Program in eight counties.

Member in Prestonburg helped six low-income families obtain loans.

Member in Barbourville helped four low-income families obtain loans/grants to repair their homes.

Member in Somerset/London helped five low-income families obtain loans.

FS Kentucky

Member developed an infrastructure database; served as project manager for the historic Stearns building renovation project; and administered the Folk Life Study on historical buildings, people, and local folklore in Kentucky.

FS Georgia

Member developed a recreation opportunity guide for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest; conducted wilderness rehabilitation activities; and completed environmental education in the Blood Mountain Wilderness and local communities.

SOUTH CAROLINA

RECD South Carolina

Member in Denmark established an after-school tutorial project.

In Allendale/Blackville, Member established a downtown redevelopment effort concentrating on a historical abandoned hotel.

In Marion County, Member began outreach to improve local housing conditions for low-income residents.

In Williamsburg, Member began attempting to locate land for a future state park.

In Santee-Luynches, Member has been working to statistically document and then reduce the number of teenage pregnancies.

In Eastern Orangeburg, Member began outreach to improve local housing conditions for low-income residents.

In Greater Orangeburg, Member is seek to reduce the number of vacant buildings used for illegal activities by helping identify those premises and working with the city to demolish or improve those buildings.

In Penn Center, Member is completing a survey of community land ownership to stabilize development and establish a plan for a cooperative effort for agriculture processing and development.

FS

Members conducted one Junior Palmetto Leadership training course for 30 high school students; conducted Arbor Day tree planting demonstrations; worked with Head Start program; worked on the Greelyville Nature trail reconstruction project; worked on the Black River Bridge Beautification Project and a 12-mile highway beautification project; worked with NRCS on a flood prevention project; initiated a wetland delineation project for NRCS; and researched background information for the Pocatigo Swamp restoration project.

NRCS South Carolina

Members conducted waste water sampling of waste management facilities (lagoons) and prepared detailed summary reports for 16 individual farm systems; this testing procedure was the first in South Carolina and will serve as a model for other conservation activities. Tested 600 different soil samples to determine croplands with high levels of phosphorus and acidity and prepared on report on their findings to local farmers. Members expanded inventory on data on farm grasslands to reflect 40,000 acres in order to reduce erosion and improve water quality of nearby streams and lakes. Members built a new front entrance gate and a mile's worth of nature trails at the Adair Outdoor Learning Center in Laurens, which is visited by 3,000 students each year.

Members helped local officials improve emergency response procedures by conducting a county-wide road survey in Edgefield County to inventory and update names and locations, as the first base procedure to reduce delays in 911 emergency responses. Over 600 miles of roads were recorded on base maps and entered into local computer software in order to maintain accurate files. The entire effort saved the county approximately \$20,000, and each AmeriCorps Member was presented a certificate of achievement from county officials.

MISSISSIPPI DELTA

NRCS Mississippi

Members in Hattiesburg began an inventory of tourism resources in an 18-county area of Southeast Missouri.

Members in Brookhaven conducted a large scale communications campaign to solicit volunteers for the "Adopt-A-Stream" program.

Members in Monticello were responsible for pumping out one lagoon, and placing seven on waiting list. Members in Monticello also sponsored a regional meeting, attended by 11 of the 13 counties in the area, to improve rural fire protection services.

Members in Tupelo and Grenada have generated maps and used them in meetings with local fire coordinators to plan dry fire hydrants that will increase local fire protection.

Member in Mississippi has started work on improving local waste management systems.

Member in Pearl nearly completed two outdoor classrooms and a nature trail at Madison Elementary School.

RECD Mississippi

In Cleveland, Member recruited new and emerging leaders in Bolivar County for a community and economic development leadership seminar. Conducted survey of 18-county area as an integral part of the regional strategic plan.

Member in Natchez is working to reduce teenage pregnancy; she spoke personally about her efforts with Senate Majority Whip Trent Lott and "promised to support (her) efforts in Natchez and declared he would be in Natchez in any events that take place if his schedule permits." The Member has also formed a task force to work on reestablishing a YMCA center in Natchez. Another member in Natchez helped two different families obtain funds to repair their home. In her "free time" this member is volunteering for the Illiteracy Program at a local United Methodist Church.

In RECD District IV (Bolivar, Sharkey, Issaquene, Sunflower, and Washington Counties, Member helped five families with poor credit history turn their credit around so they could obtain housing loans.

Member in Madison County recruited 46 local high school students and two teachers to participate in a series of money management workshops.

Member in Madison and Jefferson Counties conducted financial management classes in six senior high school classes reaching 135 students.

Member is working in Jackson to create a "Peer Helpers' group to reduce crimes committed by teenagers. Another Member is working in Jackson to help low-income families obtain loans to purchase their first homes.

In Washington County, member has produced a comprehensive report of available buildings, the labor supply, financial options, cost of utilities, etc. in an 18-county region in order to expand local businesses or attract new businesses.

In Webb, Member helped six low-income citizens obtain single self-help housing units. Member has also provided counseling to the families that have homes under construction to acquaint them with the responsibilities that go along with home ownership.

In Indianola, Member began providing a "Home Buyer's Education Program" for 932 individuals.

Member in Holmes County devised a plan to reduce employee turnover at the Durant Electric Corporation, the largest employer in the county with 600 employees and a payroll of \$8 million. The plan not only convinced the company to reverse its plans to move to Mexico, but allowed the company to hire 400 new employees. Thus, the one USDA AmeriCorps member directly saved or created 1,100 jobs.

The member also held two town meetings, attended by 80 local senior citizens, to inform them of common consumer fraud scams targeted at the elderly.

Member in Yazoo City created a brochure for a new program to create small businesses in the area. This member also coordinated a program in which the MS State Health Educator talked to 900 high school students about teenage pregnancy and abstinence.

FS Mississippi

Member completed one timber bridge application; assisted 21 people in joining and developing a Rural Water Association; distributed recycling literature to individuals and schools; and assisted two small communities with two leadership programs in Mississippi.

RECD Arkansas

One Member works with the Mid-Delta Community Services to help implement the Mid-Delta EC proposal and the East Arkansas EZ proposal. A contact list was developed and will be updated. A list was developed showing MDEC activities that might be undertaken using other funding sources.

One Member works with Crowley & Ridge D.C.A. to train low-income families in child care and has aided two families in receiving help in paying utility bills and receiving food from area churches.

In Forrest City, one Member successfully organized one community meeting to explain to the community and housing programs available through the USDA and completed 10 borrower interviews for housing assistance loans and grants. Another Member helped improve the standard living for 950 low-income families, helping to obtain Home Energy Assistance (HEAP) and to provide assistance through the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP).

In Jonesboro, Member began conducting outreach on USDA housing repair and ownership programs.

In Blytheville, Member is working to implement the Mississippi County Enterprise Community Strategic Plan.

In Mariana, Member began implementing the strategic plan of the Arkansas Mississippi Tri-County EZ, Crittenden County EC, Forrest City Marianna EC, Mid Delta EC, and the Tri State Delta EZ.

In Brinkley, Member began implementing the Eastern Arkansas Empowerment Zone strategic plan by Empowerment Zone Enterprise Community Initiative to implement the strategic plan.

FS Arkansas

Member motivated volunteers to assist with the "Educate the Children Project" which distributes educational material to school districts and some non-profit organizations; completed an inventory of families willing to move out of a flood plain; compiled a list of organizations that could provide assistance to communities in Arkansas.

NRCS Arkansas

Members in Batesville made significant progress towards helping create a local woodland owners association.

Members in Holy Grove began work to help community residents move out of a flood zone. Members have also worked on helping start a "Dads Program," to focus attention on young boys without fathers in the home.

Member in Marion assembled information for area tourism guide.

Another Member in Marion helped provide a rural waterline that will provide seven households -- with 22 residents -- with running water for the first time.

Member in North Little Rock prepared report on state's threatened and endangered species and presented information to representative of city and county governments, Conservation District officials, members of other governmental agencies, leaders of local financial institutions, and local landowners.

Another Member in North Little Rock has identified 10 sites for Pellet Stove Demonstration Projects to stimulate demand for a new product that will boost industry in the region.

A Member in Brinkley provided information on alternative crops to limited resource farmers.

One of the Members in Pine Bluff developed farm and home plans for small and disadvantaged farmers to help them obtain loans to stay on their land.

Member in Helen conducted comprehensive needs survey on Monroe, Phillips, and Lee Counties.

NRCS Louisiana

Made significant progress towards installing 35 dry fire hydrants per parish in order to aid rural fire protection. Performed over 100 pre-assessment surveys that benefited over 100 rural families by identifying threats water quality on their home and farmsteads. Made presentations on the water quality program to 240 high school students.

RECD Louisiana

In Jonesville, Member provided outreach to senior citizens to help them apply for the 504 grant housing program.

In Tallulah, one Member posted loan payments and performed loan servicing and another member helped the Madison Parish Police Jury begin implementing their strategic plan.

In Winsboro, one Member helped citizen fill out 25 applications for the 504 grant housing program and another Member assisted the Macon Ridge Economic Development Region in implementing their strategic plan and participated in the local Head Start Center's "Literacy Week."

In Alexandria, Member provided outreach on USDA and Small Business Administration loans for new businesses, helped organize a Mayor's Adult and Youth Council, helped organize a community clean-up day, and attended public meetings on behalf of the mayor.

In Rayville, Member providing outreach to citizens to obtain rural housing loans.

In Ferriday, Member performed outreach for rural housing, rehabilitations, and guaranteed loan programs.

In Lake Providence, one Member attended local events to promote outreach of local housing and farmer loan programs and another member worked to obtain home repair loans for senior citizens.

In Bastrop, member began providing outreach activities to promote rural housing programs.

FS Louisiana

Member worked with parishes to develop an Area Festival Brochure for Northeast Louisiana; worked on a tourism project with Rymans Library; assisted with a Grant Writing Workshop; contributed to the RC&D's "Rural Community Giving" project; worked on an Elder Care project for senior citizens; worked on a beautification project for roads and highways in one parish; developed a draft tourism

brochure for another parish; assumed responsibility on the Area Demonstration Project on Shitake Mushrooms; assisted with the development of a children's playground; worked with the Outreach Project in Lake Providence; assisted with the development of a tutoring program for individuals to obtain their GED and improve ACT test scores and an education program for adults; and worked on a bridge information summary for Mississippi Delta counties to prepare a bridge infrastructure report for possible timber bridge construction projects in Louisiana.

GREAT LAKES

NRCS Ohio

Member completed a field map of Pickaway County to help protect the Darby Creek watershed. Completed survey and design work to implement Best Management Practices in rural areas, identified local landowners who want trees to be planted on riparian areas; began identifying places on the Big and Little Darby Creeks where point and non-point pollution enters the stream system.

NRCS Michigan

Members conducted quality assessments and provided water quality protection plans to 29 farm families.

NRCS New York

Members have helped digitalize soil surveys and make that information accessible and practice to surrounding communities, including the Seneca Nation of Indians. Members have also assisted with the planning, survey, and design of three wetland restoration projects, two runoff management projects, and three manure management projects.

MINNESOTA

NRCS

Members based in Twin Valley working on the Agassie Recreational Trail Project and designed a tourism brochure along with a logo created through a local contest, worked with the Ada City Council to integrate the trail project with community development, completed a grant proposal for the Heritage & Information Center, and judged at the Norman County East Science Fair for students grades K through 6.

Members based in Twin Valley working on the conservation outreach project recruited local volunteers to jointly clean-up downtown Crookston.

Members based in Cloquet developed a public participation plan for the Nemadji River Basin Project and completed a watershed roadside erosion inventory.

Members based in Lewiston created and implemented a public participation plan for the Whitewater Joint Powers Board and conducted outreach on the Water Quality Incentive Program. Members also helped develop an "enchanted trail" to be a safe haven for children trick-or-treating on Halloween and picked-up trash and brush around the historical Elba Fire Tower.

Members based in Hiawatha began work to improve forage/grassland conditions to the good or excellent category on 5,000 acres, affecting 50 farmers in 11 counties.

Members based in Thief River Falls began work to improve water quality and reduce producer fertilizer input costs by developing and implementing animal waste nutrient utilization and management plans on 120 livestock operations.

FS

Member developed a public access TV show that explains a project being conducted by the RC&Ds to promote the development of a bio-fuels program in cooperation with the US Dept. of Energy; and worked with the Central Minnesota Initiative Fund and two regional economic development groups to assess what must be done by foundations, state/local/federal governments and educational institutions, industry, and financial institutions to encourage the sustainable development of Minnesota's forest products industry.

COLONIAS

RECD Texas

One Member with the Middle Rio Grande Development Council has begun grant applications to attempt to start a revolving loan fund to fund new small businesses locally.

Another Member is helping create a community crime watch program.

Member in Devian, Texas made significant progress towards creating a 5,000 acre Regional Environmental Enterprise Zone to build an innovative and comprehensive facility to meet the solid waste needs of the region for the next 75 to 100 years. The member is also helping establish a magnet high school with emphasis on environmental concerns. Member began implementing project to build 20 Equal Community Housing Opportunity (ECHO) homes for elderly and/or handicapped citizens.

Member in Brownsville helped 25 families without bathroom and kitchen plumbing renovate unsanitary and unsafe bathroom and kitchen plumbing facilities. Member helped 16 families remodel their homes to remove health hazards such as broken windows, old roofs, insulation, etc. Member helped two families obtain new homes that are now under construction.

Member in Laredo make significant progress towards rehabilitating 42 housing units.

Member is working to obtain funds to complete a water feasibility study and is working with three school districts to increase the percentage of high school drop-outs obtaining GEDS.

Member in El Paso helped two elderly women obtain funds to repair their homes, and for a third women ineligible for government loans, recruited a volunteer plumber to repair bathroom and volunteers through the Salvation Army to winterize home.

Member conducted needs surveys in all the sub-zones of the Empowerment Zone.

Members in Hidalgo County have been responsible for construction of nine bathrooms at homes previously without indoor plumbing; three more were finalized, but not yet built, at the end of the quarter.

Member in San Benito is working to provide indoor plumbing to 153 families without such plumbing.

Member in Raymondville worked to provide indoor plumbing to 30 families without such plumbing.

RECD New Mexico

Members in Columbus Colonias began working on a community water project to improve running water in the area.

In Las Cruces, Members held a workshop for 40 residents of local colonias to inform them of available housing programs and how to apply for aid.

In Sunland Park, member made presentations at a local elementary school on Disability Awareness week.

RECD Arizona

Four members are working in EZ/EC applicant communities on a broad range of economic development activities including the creation of a revolving loan fund for small and emerging businesses, recruitment of businesses, surveys of local needs and challenges.

Three members began outreach on 502 and 504 housing programs to targeted areas.

RECD California

Two Members in El Centro have been conducting outreach to expand usage of the 504 programs to provide grants and loans for low income families to repair their homes; by the end of the first quarter, two applications for repairs had been approved and the work was completed, two more had just been approved, and four more were in the process of being approved. The other Member is working for the County Community Economic Development Office and helped Spanish-speaking citizens fill-out their forms in English, obtain 50 donated Christmas trees for low-income residents and helped plan crime prevention, alcohol and drug awareness, and economic development assistance.

FOUR CORNERS

NRCS Arizona/

Members in Holbrook, Arizona began an assessment of small-scale agriculture needs on the Hopi and Navajo Reservations.

Members have also begun socioeconomic and infrastructure survey in selected communities.

NRCS New Mexico

Members based in Albuquerque began their service after the end of the first quarter.

In San Juan, Members have begun to inventory private woodlands and started to conduct a resource and rangeland inventory on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

NRCS/FS Utah

Members have begun service conducting an analysis of the potential for local resource-based, value-added industries in the region and assist limited resource farmers in developing small-scale agriculture enterprises.

FS Arizona/New Mexico, Colorado

Members primarily training, obtaining facilities, and establishing relationships in communities and with other participating agencies. One Community Action Plan completed in Colorado.

RECD New Mexico

In Grants, Member has recruited 2-3 individuals in each of eight communities to form community councils to make housing programs more available to low-income individuals.

In San Juan County, Member made presentation to senior citizens group on how to apply for funds to repair their homes.

Member in Gallup conducted a training on loan packaging for 19 community residents including representatives from local non-profit groups, church leaders, and Native American Community leaders.

In Baker City, Member has recruited three property owners who have agreed to use their properties as pilot locations for historic renovations.

In Oakridge, Member drafted a new land use ordinance of the City that was presented to a planning commission in December 1994. The member also drafted an update of a local Strategic Economic Development Plan.

In Coquille, Member promoted the Housing Repair Loan and Grant Program by creating a brochure she is distributing throughout town, writing an article for the local newspaper, and assisted community members in the application process.

In Cave Junction, Member is acting as Community Development Coordinator for the Illinois Valley 2010 Community Response Team.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

RECD Oregon

In Pendleton, Member helped two low-income individuals receive a loan and one individual to receive a grant to repair their homes.

In Elgin, Member assisted HELP, Inc. in a Housing Preservation Grant that allowed 11 low-income and very low-income families to repair and rehabilitate their homes. The Member verified eligibility, determined preservation needs, identified environmental effects, and awarded bids to housing contractors.

In Roseburg, Member has been assisting the Umpqua Action Network to promote their home repair program and find housing for the homeless.

In Ontario, Member helped family whose home had been damaged by a fire obtain a loan to pay for

repairs of the house.

FS Oregon

Member researched and disseminated information and examples of strategic planning for a Strategic Planning Task Force; developed a data base for funding sources; completed preliminary planning stages for a riparian regulation workshop, water quality projects, and preliminary research on a nitrate project; established a grant writing team; updated a comprehensive plan; and promoted a recycling effort for the holidays.

NRCS Oregon (Grant's Pass)

Members are working to explain riparian projects to local landowners and are encouraging their participation in stream enhancement program.

RECD Washington

In Grant County, Member began developing and implementing a comprehensive community needs survey.

Based in Yakima County, Members are working to implement EZ/EC economic plan and to develop a statewide, regional, and local inventory of housing resources.

Based in Wenatchee County, Members have begun a comprehensive inventory of community resources.

MIDWEST FLOOD STATES

Missouri

In Columbia, Member began preparing guide sheets and a handbook to aid reclamation of two smaller tributaries of the Missouri River.

In Charles County, Member obtained existing floodplain management data to begin developing a Decision Support System computer model for floodplain management.

In Howard County, Member produced an informational memo on flood recovery that was distributed by the Extension Service and also began collecting hydrologic and agronomic data in order to propose land-use alternatives for the area.

In Columbia, Member completed seven basin reports to aid watershed protection.

In St. Charles County, Member provided emergency program assistance to 32 landusers.

In Jefferson City, Member completed data collection for pasture and hayland management booklet and developed soil and water conservation lesson plan for eventual presentation at 23 local schools.

In Troy, Member investigated local floodwater retarding dams to determine workload.

In Higginsville Member, who started work December 12, 1994, is working to assist sponsors to complete five dam safety reports and perform maintenance on 15 floodwater retarding dams.

In Warrensburg, Member provided assistance to landowners concerning EWP and ECP flood recovery work.

In Butler, Member prepared watershed soils planning map for the Miami Creek Water Quality project and provided assistance to 450 landusers.

In Marshal, Member completed maps on five farms of the sands deposits created by the floods of 1993.

In Fayette, Member assisted five sponsors and 15 landowners to provide flood protection recovery through the Emergency Watershed Program.

Iowa

Member conducted outreach to increase the number of farmers in the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program. Have prepared maps and written materials to assist County Conservation Boards in Fremont, Mills, Pottawattamie, Harrison, Monona, and Woodbury counties in locating areas for potential in recreation, tourism, economic development, and wildlife areas. Member revised brochure for Western Iowa and worked to develop bicycle loops for area cycling clubs; scheduled pasture walks and seminars with local farmers to promote and develop rotational grazing systems; updating tourism guides, writing scripts for tours, restoring a farmer's market, and taking an inventory of resources in the African-American community to create an agricultural heritage area in Northeast Iowa.

Illinois

In Pittsfield, Members completed a Small Businesses Research and Revitalization Project and are helping update the town's Overall economic development plan. Members have also begun to identify and promote alternative uses of land in the Conservation Reserve Program by surveying farmers currently enrolled in the program.

North Dakota

Member completed scope and effect determinations on 57 wetland tracts in areas most at risk of future flooding; began measuring and sealing abandoned wells; helping clean up trailer park damaged by flooding in 1993.

Kansas

Based in Topeka, Members completed 15% of riparian work in Douglas County and completed 2% of transects.

Based in Hays, Members completed off-site review in eight townships, identified all wetlands in two townships, completing 40% of riparian mapping in 30 townships, and finished six riparian transects.

Based in Dodge City, Members completed remote sensing work --- using satellite technology to identify status of land ---- in six townships.

Based in Hutchinson, Members completed 308% of remote sensing for wetlands inventory in 15 townships.

Based in Lyon County, Member completed riparian mapping of six townships, completed remote sensing on six townships, completed one field visit to township to verify wetland signature.

Basin in Manhattan, Members mapped 20% of Riley County for riparian work, completed 12 transects, and made site checks for potential wetlands on 60,000 acres.

Based in Salina, Member stenciled 200 United States Geological Survey maps.

Based in Abilene, Members worked with five agricultural producers to discuss systems and designs for agricultural waste management. Worked with 5th graders in explaining soil conservation and non-point source pollution.

Wisconsin

Members began digitalizing soil surveys in preparation for providing outreach to the communities on these topics.

CALIFORNIA

In Apple valley, Members have been working with local agencies to streamline the permit process for soil scientists to be able to analyze the soil for mapping. Members also prepared a curriculum on soil for a local high school.

In Auburn, Members have made significant progress creating and implementing fuel reduction plans to reduce forest and other fires in the area.

In Lancaster and Somis, Members have focused on areas previously impacted by fires and by flooding and have completed a mitigation plan for the Kinneola area and have completed field work for the Laguna mitigation plan. In Petaluma, the Member has begun water quality sampling on three adjacent dairies and has completed one conservation plan.

In Santa Rosa, the Member has trained one dairy operator to use a water quality test kit, is developing plans to provide such assistance to members of four different local organizations, and has completed inventory work for a watershed group. In Ukiah, the Member has formed client partnerships to aid two severely eroded streams, has helped the Round Valley Tribal Community treated 2 miles of stream, and signed up four local growers for a cost share program to convert to the water-saving drip irrigation program.

In Redlands, Members have surveyed three dairies totaling 130 acres, eventually leading to recycling or eliminating 6,867 tons of waste once practices have been implemented. Each farmers saved an average of about \$9,000 by having the service performed by AmeriCorps members instead of private contractors. The members also completed a survey of a 5-acre ranch which will eventually lead to the recycling of 26.5 tons of waste a year. One of the members helps coordinate and teach and Nature Discovery Program that benefited 690 local elementary students. Members also staked and surveyed almost a mile's length of the Big Rathbone Creek in order to begin reducing the risk of flooding to area residents.

Accomplishments of the Northwest Service Academy:

While the Northwest Service Academy AmeriCorps was not specifically part of USDA's direct grant from the Corporation for National Service, the USDA Forest Service played a leading role in creating and managing the program. Forest Service employees have provided significant and continuing planning and technical assistance, and much of the service has been performed on Forest Service Lands. In addition, it is likely that the Northwest Service Academy will be tied to this year's USDA's direct application to the Corporation for National and Community Service. Therefore, this reports includes the Academy's first quarter accomplishments on Forest Service lands:

Cascade Streamwatch: The objective was to maintain 2 miles of interpretive trail and harden six riverside sites while providing on-site education to 300 students. The Members maintained 3 miles of trail, constructed another quarter mile of trail, hardened 8 sites and provided on-site education to over 300 students.

Road Restoration: The objective was to seed, fertilize and mulch 9 miles of abandoned roads and skid trails. All objectives were met.

Wildlife Cutting: The objective was to collect 30,000 willow and cottonwood cuttings for wildlife plantings this coming spring. All objectives were met.

Huckleberry Field Restoration: The objective was to restore 82 acres of sacred tribal huckleberry fields on National Forest Lands for the Warm Springs and Yakima Tribal nations. 12 acres of huckleberry fields were burned and another 70 acres of conifer trees were hand girdled and pruned.

Snag Surveys: The objective was to survey 1,200 acres of snag habitat to determine critical habitat needs for a variety endangered species including the Northern Spotted Owl. Two hundred acres were completed before the winter snows forced the teams out.

Roadbank Restoration: The objective was to install erosion control netting on 300 feet of steep Forest Service road cutbanks. All the objectives were met by Members.

Elk Forage Enhancement: The objective was to restore 40 acres of critical elk habitat. Members helped burn 40 acres for forage enhancement.

Fisheries Projects: 1) The objective was to build salmon smolt rearing channels along 1/4 mile of the Clackamas River and install nine fish protective structures in the channel. Members met all objectives.

Bull Run Watershed Monitoring: The objective was to open all roads to critical water monitoring sites after an early winter snowstorm. Members helped clear 15 miles of road that were critical in maintaining consistent records stretching back over half a century.

White Pine Blister Rust Control: The objective was to prune 20 acres of plantation. Members completed 22 acres of pruning.

Plantation Enhancement: The objective was to prune 80 acres of Douglas Fir plantations to enhance the final quality of timber produced. Members completed 80 acres.

Glacier Springs: The objective was to construct 2,800 feet of fence around Glacier Springs,

Trout Lake's municipal watershed. Members completed 1,000 feet before the winter snows.

Wells Island: The objective was to clear five acres of brush and noxious weeds to improve wildlife habitat for Canadian geese, herons and bald eagles. Members met all objectives.

Rho Ridge, Buck Creek and Whistle Punk Trails: The objective was to complete 5.6 miles of trails, 1.2 miles of which was designed for the physically challenged trail. Members met all objectives.

Primary challenges

In order to meet President Clinton's vision for bringing this exciting new program to the American people rapidly, USDA faced great difficulties in starting such a large and complex program with only a few months between approval of our application and the launch. While we have had our share of relatively minor start-up problems, we are dealing them with a process of continuous improvement based on constant consultation and site visits with local project managers.

National identity activities this quarter

USDA has woven the national AmeriCorps identity and philosophy into every steps of our program. Most sites participated in either launch activities on September 12, 1994 or subsequently. All USDA members are required to wear at least one article of uniform identifying them as AmeriCorps Members. All our press releases and informational materials are now required to have at least two standard paragraphs on AmeriCorps. Since the start of the program, USDA/AmeriCorps members have met with President Clinton in California, Vice-President Gore in Kentucky, Senators Leahy and Jeffords in Vermont, Secretary Espy in Mississippi, Acting Secretary Rominger in California, Missouri, and Maine, and CNCS Eli Segal in Vermont, Texas, and Iowa. The Chief of the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Paul Johnson, a former Peace Corps volunteer, also visited sites around the country and explained his especially-relevant view of national service.

USDA Director of National Service Joel Berg has visited sites, worked alongside Members, and explained the AmeriCorps vision in Washington, Oregon, California, Nebraska, Georgia, Vermont, and the District of Columbia. USDA agency AmeriCorps coordinators David Gibson, Paula Cole Jones, and Lou Woltering have also made numerous site visits throughout the country in order to spread the AmeriCorps message.

Site by Site Accomplishments in Anti-Hunger Projects

Key to USDA Agencies

FS = Forest Service, NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service, ARS = Agricultural Research Service, RECD = Rural Economic and Community Development, FCS = Food and Consumer Service

FCS Vermont

The program recruited, hired, and trained all staff in anticipation of the project starting in January of 1995. A massive recruitment drive for Members occurred across the state. As a result, 1,000 individuals were sent application packets, 500 organizations in Vermont received application packets for distribution among their constituencies, 24 radio stations received a public announcement on the program, a press release was sent to all daily Vermont papers, three radio and one television interviews were conducted, seven regional community meetings were held, and team leaders and staff visited more than 100 community groups, organizations, and schools to provide program information. Formed state-wide advisory board consisting of 23 experts from government and non-profit agencies.

FCS District of Columbia

FCS Members assisted 200 senior citizens in filling out Food Stamps applications. During a recent immunization campaign, the Members teamed up with local WIC clinics to promote immunization. Members produced and distributed 20 informational posters, distributed 300 informational flyers, and made 150 reminder phone calls to relevant families. Members worked at regional food banks where they sorted over 70,000 pounds of food, assisted in mailing 7,000 fundraising mailers, served 1,000 people in directly serving food at local soup kitchens.

FCS Milwaukee

Members queried 128 pantries and meal programs in need of repair or renovation. Members conducted infrastructure renovation of the Hunger Task Force's warehouse distribution area by painting, dry-walling, and completing concrete work. Members worked in nine area food pantries sorting, packaging, and distribution of food. Members contacted 130 regional pantries and meal programs to inform them about the Earned Income Tax Credit.

FCS Mississippi

Members surveyed 60 households of which 29 have been referred to obtain food stamp assistance. Members conducted a Nutrition and Food Safety Workshop for the elderly in which 36 seniors participated. Members provided widespread information regarding nutrition, food safety, food service agencies, and fire safety by distributing 400 leaflets to low-income people in the area.

FCS Los Angeles

The objective is to create one community garden at one school. One school garden site has been picked and three existing gardens at other schools have been improved.

The objective is to develop a nutritional education presentation to be held at 10 schools. Members have developed "Healthy Eating is Fun," a nutrition education presentation/skit, and will soon be giving it to ten local schools.

The objective is to conduct campaigns designed to increase participation in the school breakfast program. Members have developed presentations for 200 area schools.

The objective is to perform community outreach for nutrition promotion. Two outreach teams, one at local WIC offices and another at San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, serve an average of 200 people four days a week.

The objective is to provide assistance to victims of the Northridge earthquake. Approximately 200 people have been impacted by this team and its efforts.

The objective is to start three new community gardens. Work is being done at Burlington Garden, Tieffa De La Culebra, and Watt's Jordan Downs Housing Project.

Site by Site Accomplishments in Environmental Projects

Projects are managed by the Forest Service (FS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

NRCS Kansas, statewide

Members worked at reservoirs severely damaged by the floods of 1993.

At Webster, Members fixed 2 miles of fence, cleaned 5 miles of shoreline, removed 160 damaged trees, and dug footing for Boy Scout cabin.

At Kannopolis, Members cleared 3 miles of trails, dug and replanted 40 trees, wired and weighted 40 tires to create fish habitat, tied together, weighted, and dumped into lake 60 trees to create fish habitat, captured prairie dogs and relocated them in flood damaged area, built two nesting structures, and cleared park area from debris from ice storm.

At Perry, Members repaired 50 picnic tables, restored four restrooms, repaired one bridge, maintained several miles of road, cleaned up ice storm damage in nearby Valley Falls, created five brushpiles for habitat, trimmed 3 miles of trees on dikes, and built and sunk three fish habitats.

At Milford, Members cleaned outdoor learning classroom for Wakefield School, District, cleaned debris from 2 miles of wildlife and park roads, posted signs on 15 miles of roads, salvaged seven tons of fish, stocked trout at Tuttle Creek, cleaned storm damage at Pottawatomie State Park, and completed deer surveys.

At Glen Elder, Members placed 40 cedar trees in the lake for fish habitat, fixed 15 gates, fixed 290 miles of fence, built three back drops for hunter target shooting, conducted two wildlife surveys, posted 300 signs on 75 miles of park roads, repaired five vehicles, rebuilt a toilet, and filled 25 bags with grass seed.

In Western Kansas, Members began repairing, rehabilitating, and re-planting windbreaks created by the original Civilian Conservation Corps.

NRCS Western Oklahoma

Restored 15 windbreaks on 7.5 miles of land in five counties. Four of the windbreaks have already been responsible for decreasing soil erosion. Held educational seminars on windbreaks to six different groups. One quarter of the counties in Western Oklahoma have now received requests for windbreak restoration.

NRCS Texas Coast (Baytown)

Members cleaned and mowed five, 10-meter by 75-meter ponds, vegetated two acres of marsh demonstration projects, harvested and threshed by hand 4 acres of smooth cordgrass seed, harvested by hand and then planted 800 mangrove seeds, harvested and planted 2,000 *Scirpus robustus* seeds, harvested, threshed, and planted 1,000 *Scirpus californicus* seeds. Members also repaired 1,000 feet of fence at the Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Members also assisted the Red Cross in flood relief efforts in the Houston area by loading and unloading trucks and delivering supplies to local flood victims.

NRCS Metropolitan Atlanta, GA

Members conducted water quality monitoring at thirty locations throughout the Big Creek Watershed. Stenciled ten percent of the drains the City of Alpharetta with no dumping signs. In one neighborhood, Members benefitted 400 residents by cleaning eight acres, mulching 1,000 feet of walking trails, placing three waterbars into trails, seeded 1/2 acre, and carried away six dump trucks of trash. They cleaned two city parks, removing two dump trucks full of trash; performed streambank stabilization work on a 100 feet by 50 feet section of the Chattahoochee River; built a greenhouse for use as a plant materials center and began constructing a nature trail at the North Metro Technical Institute in Acworth.

Boston, MA

Members were recruited and selected for a program that began on December 5, 1994. In December, members performed maintenance work on three acres on city parks, and planted trees on two, 1-acre sites.

New Jersey, state-wide

Completed stream walks on four streams to categorize and map potential non-point pollution in the South Branch Raritan River watershed. Desnagged and reestablished stone reflectors in two streams to improve fish habitat and removed debris and reseeded 375 feet of streambank to reduce erosion and improve water quality. Designed and flagged 500 feet of trail in the Muscecong watershed. Erected a playground set at Lake Hopatcong state park.

District of Columbia/Beltsville

Members worked with the Izaak Walton League in Charles County, Maryland to complete four erosion control structures on a site that will be open to the public. They pulled plants and completed field work in greenhouse and conducted landscaping activities at the Beltsville National Plant materials Center. Members cleaned-up Lake Atemesia and completed site assessment.

District of Columbia - National Arboretum

The members completed the first two stages of restoring the Azalea overlook, cut to the ground and removed the above-ground sections of the Boxwood collection, cleared weeds and vines to restore 150 yards of Juniper hedge, weeded around Crabapple trees, removed weed trees and vines from existing trees on the mall.

Chicago

Member spent 10 days at Lathrop Homes maintaining and beautifying streambanks, preparing and seeding berm seedbed, and serving meals to the homeless on Thanksgiving. Member served the remainder of the quarter at eight different locations creating a safe-haven lot, cleaning-up a lagoon in Washington Park, landscaping at a public high school, remodeling and preparing a play lot at Kennicott Park, helping organize a "Neighbors Against Gang Violence - Day of Dead Memorial," remodeling the Donnelly Youth Center, and planting bulbs at the Fellowship Youth Center.

Pittsfield, Illinois

In areas generally damaged by the floods of 1993, Members developed 1.3 miles of hiking trails, improved 5 acres of camp sites, and pruned 5 acres of evergreen trees at a Pittsfield City park. Members also removed about 15 tons of debris (tires, appliances, automobiles, etc.) from half a mile of a stream that outlets into a city owned recreation lake for the city of Rushville. In Kampsville, Members replaced 75 feet of sidewalks damaged during the flood. members also renovated a building used by Calhoun County for storage and removed brush and weeds from public property. In Quincy, Members removed vines, brush, and weeds from city owned property and assisted in renovating a building as part of revitalizing uptown Quincy. Members in Quincy also removed bricks from an historic alley, reshaped the alley, and replaced the bricks.

NRCS East St. Louis, IL

Members have established nurseries at East St. Louis Senior High School, Lovejoy High School, and Gains Park, removed debris and broken materials from the greenhouse at East St. Louis Senior High, cleaned out a fountain in Jones Park, assisted Operation NewSpirit in planting bulbs throughout East St. Louis. To prepare for vacant lot renovations next quarter, they have solicited over 30 applications for lot renovation, conducted on-site analysis of the lots, and prepared detailed stenciled drawings for all the sites selected.

NRCS, Portland, OR

Members at the Whitaker Pond Restoration improved 150 feet of bank along the east pond by removing pest species including blackberries, night shade, and everlasting pea; the area was revegetated with a variety of native species, and compost was spread over the entire planting site to improve growing conditions. Trash such as tires and lumber was removed from the pond. Members also canvassed neighborhoods adjacent to the ponds to distribute flyers about the first workshop to solicit public input and involvement in the planning process.

Members also revegetated 3 acres on the northern portion of Fairview Creek, and mentored 20 high school students who removed blackberries and canary grass and revegetated the banks along another 200 feet of the Creek. They also relocated geese from a Metro park to a Humane Society Pond site. They also worked on a project in St. Johns with the non-profit organization Friends of Trees, removing 50 diseased trees and replacing them with 80 trees more appropriate for the area. The Members worked side-by-side with 80 different community volunteers who served 450 hours.

NRCS, Goldendale, Washington

Member rebuilt a half-mile stretch of fence that protects a key riparian area along the Little Kickitat River. Protected water quality on one mile of stream by treating 300 acres with log check dams across steep slopes and installed eight sediment retention dams. Protected Pine Creek by installing eight log check dams. Built a new playground at a Head Start School sponsored by the Yakima Indian Reservation. Removed dozens of pick-up loads of dead and dying trees and public lands and provided as firewood for low-income families.

San Bernardino NF, Southern CA

Members rehabilitated 12,000 acres of the area burned by fire on the Arrowhead and Big Bear Ranger Districts on the forest. This fire stripped the hills of essential vegetation. Preventing erosion was the primary goal of the rehabilitation work.

Six Rivers NF, Northern CA

Members rehabilitated 3.5 miles of trails to be used by hikers and horse riders. Members rehabilitated and expanded their dormitory and their dining hall for their own use and that of all future AmeriCorps programs. Members reforested 10 acres of an old gold mine waste area in order to restore riparian vegetation, increase wildlife habitat, and control erosion on Red Cap Creek. They collected and processed 15,000 willow cuttings for propagation in future riparian revegetation projects. One crew participated in service-learning project in which they received credit from local college for an anadromous fisheries class and then rehabilitated a half a mile of stream by building 16 in-stream structures composed of large woody debris and boulders.

One Member working in a Rural Development Team-type "Internship" completed a lobby display for a Forest office, created a display for the Eureka Chamber of Commerce's Pride of Humboldt room, and reformatted three different Recreational Opportunity Guides for public use. Members also performed selected service projects in Humboldt County such as tutoring children, helping senior citizens, and contributing to a blood drive. One Member has been selected through state-wide competition to serve on the California Commission on Improving Life Through Service "AmeriCorps Member Ad-Hoc Committee." Congressman Dan Hamburg sent a representative to the project's launch.

FS, Rouge River, OR

Member planted 2,390 trees in several campgrounds to restore overused areas. Another Member completely restored kitchen shelter at the McKee Bridge picnic area that was originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. In order to both enhance fish habitat and clear out manzanita bushes to help timber stands better grow, Members pruned 4000 manzanita bushes and anchored them in the Applegate Reservoir to improve native fish habitat. They pruned second growth trees to improve forest health on 55 acres of land; and built a nature trail -- complete with an outdoor classroom and bench areas along the route -- for a local school. Members rehabilitated and expanded their dormitory and their dining hall for their own use and that of all future AmeriCorps programs.

FS, Olympic, WA

Members have maintained 4 miles of trails, rehabilitated campground sites, completed handicapped access in six developed recreation sites, completed restoration on two historic sites, survey Threatened and Endangered Species habitat on 700 acres, installed 1,500 feet of fence, and hand-pruned 120 acres of timber stands. Members replaced the roofs on two county-owned recreational centers originally built by Civilian Conservation Corps Members.

Arizona National Forests

Members maintained 15 miles of trails, rehabilitated 10 campground sites, performed maintenance at three campgrounds, protected and improved wildlife habitat on 300 acres, built half a mile of range fence, removed 2.5 miles of fence, rehabilitated two range waterlots, and obliterated two miles of road and returned to natural state.

Bienville NF, MS

Member brushed 1.8 miles of footpaths on the Bienville Scenic Pine Trail. The Members completed 19 miles of heavy brushing and adding clay-gravel to the Shockaloe Trail low areas. The Members are constantly performing regular road maintenance. The Members have made numerous repair to water leaks and filled dirt around outdoor Sweet-Smelling toilets. The Members developed food plots by seeding and planting desirable grasses on approximately five acres of wildlife habitat.

Green Mountain NF, VT

The AmeriCorps team starts in January, 1995. Staff is actively recruiting Corps Members during this preparational first quarter. Currently, there are 14 Corps Member offers - 12 accepted, one declined, and one is trying to work out an apartment lease situation. The Corps Members range in age from 18-to-53 years old, and education levels range from high school to master's degree.

White Mountain NF, NH

The White Mountain AmeriCorps program begins on January 14, 1995. The project is gearing up, hiring crew leaders and AmeriCorps Members.

NRCS South Dakota

Members based in Huron helped conduct 10 sessions in elementary classrooms during American Indian Heritage Month in the City of Clark. Members also utilized new Geographical Information System technology to electronically map soil surveys, section numbers, town names, creek names, farmstead locations, range and township values in order to improve local land use decisions and speed the application of conservation methods.

Members are developing exhibit to demonstrate to cattlemen the benefits of managing

riparian and upland vegetation areas along waterways, including during period of flooding. Prepared a twelve-page report, a two-page fact sheet, and color overhead transparencies to help with presentations to explain to farmers how they can economically use sustainable agriculture techniques.

Members in Brookings, Mitchell, and Huron completed Natural Resource Inventory maps for 12 counties and are engaged in a wide variety of mapping, communications, and database collection tasks to accelerate information outreach and technical help to farmers in three of South Dakota's flood-impacted counties.

Members in Brookings and Mitchell completed an inventory of 198 riparian sites.

Members are also volunteering with the local Salvation Army and coaching a team of the city's volunteer-based hockey program.

NRCS Nebraska

Based in Omaha, Members provided markers for 400 acres and provided timber marking for 160 acres owned by the Winnebago Tribe. Designed three recreation trails, mulched and maintained a heavily used urban nature trail, cleaned up an urban wetland "Heron Haven" owned by the local Audubon Club, and started a "Cans for Corps" recycling project.

Based in Lincoln, Members revitalized the Lincoln Normal historical project, improved 20 miles of recreation trails, and publicly promoted the Shop Smart (Saving Money and Reducing Trash) recycling program.

Based in Tecumseh, Members assisted in the assessment and debris removal from 14 suites at the National Arbor Day Foundation headquarters damaged by the 1993 floods. Helped prepare an inspection and maintenance report of flood control and public recreation areas impacted by the 1993 flood. Members maintained and improved historical sites at the Captain Bailey Museum in Brownville and the Merriweather Lewis Dredge recreation area.

Based in Norfolk, Members performed recreation and conservation work in Lower Elkhorn River area, maintenance and improvements at the Willow Creek Recreation area and the Norfolk public parks, and promotional assistance to the "Keep Norfolk Beautiful" public project.

Site by Site Accomplishments in Rural Development Projects

Projects are managed by the Forest Service (FS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and the combined agencies of Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD).

NEW ENGLAND

Maine

Members based in Portland visited and conducted seminars on water quality in five local schools, edited and finalized a Casco Bay Watershed Land Use Inventory report.

Based in Edgecomb, Member sorted 78 samples of ichthoplankton, identifying eggs and larvae in the samples, in order to aid in the transportation of striped bass through located and protecting spawning areas in the Kennebec and Eastern Rivers. Transferred 20,000 individual shads from grow-out ponds into a re-stocking truck.

In Houlton, Member completed sanitary survey on Shin Pound to help community residents make future decisions about how to best protect the health of their lake.

In Machias, Member received funding from the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission to set-up a statewide series of best management practices for blueberry growers; began implementation of workshops. Member also working to assist local towns to fund septic system replacements/installations. Member completed shoreline survey of Beals Island/Great Wass Island.

In Presque Isle, Member located and identified stream suitable for streamside installation of boxes for salmonoid spawning, rearing, and staging,

In Presque Isle, Members worked with 12 teachers to begin implementing an "Adopt-a-Stream curriculum in their classrooms.

In Carribou, Member helped supervised a Youth Community Action Crew in creating an All Terrain Vehicle Trail by building a bridge, clearing trees blown down over the route, re-decking two existing bridges, and cleaning culverts that beavers had dammed. Member also worked to improve a snowmobile trail by building a bridge and by adding railings to an existing bridge.

In Cumberland County, Member promoted an Envirothon natural resources competition by

visiting 18 schools that did not participate in the previous year's competition. Member developed Adopt-a-Stream programs with YMCA school groups, engaging 80 students grades K-5 in activities ranging from building their own model watershed to visiting the actual stream to monitor for water quality and pollution. Member has provided water quality presentations to 37 students and six teachers. In Waldoboro, the Mid-Coast Fisheries Team completed a shoreline survey for Merry Cove and Beals Island and documented several sources of pollution, instituted a contingency sampling program in Waldoboro and Islesboro for their area shellfish management plan by doing storm-drain event monitoring, began sampling the West Branch of the Medomak River. Member also provided environmental training and technical assistance to the Portland Youth Conservation Corps, York High School, Boothbay Regional High School, Lincoln Academy, Camden-Rockport High School, Wiscasset High School, and Medomak Valley High School and conducted classroom presentations on wetlands and water quality to 160 students for the Maine Children's Water Festival.

In Cherryfield, Member assisted in the establishment of a pilot Integrated Pest Management Program for cranberry growers to help the growers economically reduce the amount of pesticides that end up in the groundwater, assisted with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's upland cranberry bed demonstration project, and has visited lands of 13 cranberry growers to provide personal assistance.

In Framington, Member collected, revised, adapted, copied, and distributed a 20-page packet of educational materials including lessons plans on water quality, the water cycle, water conservation, and preventing surface and groundwater pollution to 16 Soil and Water Conservation District.

At Beals Island Hatchery and Education Center, the Member facilitated three cooperative agreements between University of Maine at Machias, University of Maine Orono Cooperative Extension, and Maine Department of Environmental Resources in order to integrate hands-on water quality testing and shoreline sampling experience into the Environmental Chemistry and Special Topics in Environmental Sciences courses. Helped facilitate workshop for loggers on how they can improve water quality.

Vermont

Members on the Vermont Fire Protection project contacted 48 fire Departments in Vermont, installed one dry fire hydrant, performed 30 dry fire-hydrant site surveys, and initiated and participated in meetings with Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont Fire Safety Association, Vermont Fire Chiefs Association, and Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

Members on the Winooski River Project conducted a 21-mile reconnaissance survey from Jonesville to Essex Junction Vermont to evaluate the state of erosion control and bioengineering measures installed in the late 1930's in order to improve current conservation measures.

APPALACHIA

WEST VIRGINIA

Members developed a survey for the technical assistance, technology, and training needs for the West Virginia University Appalachia Hardwood Center; assisted with implementation of a business retention and expansion program including the production and distribution of a monthly newsletter that is intended to improve dialogue, link communities together, and provide funding opportunities; developed a computer program for West Virginia Division of Forestry that allows small business owners to calculate costs of producing various materials for long-term investment strategies.

The Barbour County Economic Development Authority is using their Members time to implement a business retention and expansion program. Nine presentations have been made to industry/business/community groups describing program objectives. The Member is taking the lead on the production and distribution of a monthly letter that is distributed to business, government, and community leaders throughout the county that is intended to improve dialogue, link communities together, and provide funding opportunities, etc. Two issues have been published to date.

RECD West Virginia

One Member contacted 32 local businesses to participate in a business retention and expansion survey. In Logan County, Member assisted the organization of nine local rural communities so they can bring resources together to effectively reduce certain criminal activities. Another Member served on the organization and implementation committee for Tug River Health Clinic and sent surveys to all employers, child care providers, parents to collect data to apply for a grant to establish a clinic. Another Member handled coordination of the county-wide clean up campaign, and make regular progress notes on the action pursued by the county in their EZ/EC implementation plans. In Fairmont, Member organized a Community Service Day for the all Northern West Virginia AmeriCorps members in which they worked at the Union Mission of Fairmont to help decorate for the youth holiday party, tape plastic to windows in the homeless shelter, and prepare information packets for a fundraising event. In Wilcoe, Member also sent surveys to prominent businesses in McDowell County that employ 25 people or more, in-home day care providers, private day care owners, and parents of Head Start children to collect data to include in grant applications to obtain funding for local day care programs. In Williamson, member assisted in helping 30 families apply for rental housing assistance.

NRCS West Virginia

In Middlebourne, the Member worked to develop a pond system for the production of striped bass on a commercial basis. He also began forming an organization of warm water fish producers in the area. He also organized a dry fire hydrant in the area by working with fire departments and local communities to get access to water for rural fire protection.

Based in Morgantown, the Member performed an archaeologist inventory on five major sites in economically depressed sites around the state in order to provide cultural resource protection through inventory, investigation, and documentation of sites. At one site, he discovered three historic and one pre-historic sites that he will be documenting. He also worked with another AmeriCorps member to develop Fort Randolph -- a Civil War fort in Point Pleasant -- for public use.

In Huntington, the member is delineating wetlands and helping design conservation plans for those wetlands.

In Kingwood, the Member performed soil nutrient content analysis and animal manure nutrient analysis in order to improve local water quality. In Morefield, the Member performed nutrient and pesticide management activities to improve the local water quality. The two members have provided assistance on a combined total of 1,000 acres.

RECD Virginia

Member in Virginia has been conducting outreach on home ownership and home repair programs.

FS Virginia

Member developed a video program showing natural resources on the National Forest, State and private lands to promote recreation resources, and tourism in the region and worked with fire departments on dry hydrant (drafting hydrants at ponds) program in VA.

NRCS Virginia

Members in Keysville conducted inventory of local dry fire hydrants, started developing a forestry product marketing plan, prepared site plan for a local greenway trail, began inventory of the site for the Staunton River Battlefield Park, and searched for artifacts to use in a visitors center.

Members in New River-Highlands have begun implementing an outdoor education center.

RECD North Carolina

In Jefferson, Member is helping finance home improvements for very low-income families in Ashe County. To do so, she established working relationships with the Ashe County Council on Aging and Allegheny County Senior Center to determine how FmHA programs could better serve the elderly residents in the counties.

In Hendersonville, Member is helping finance home improvements for very low-income families in Ashe County. To do so, he established relationships with the Housing Assistance Corporation and the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission so that they will now package applications for FmHA housing loans. He also met with several individuals to educate them about the USDA programs, and processed two loans to make repairs to low-income individuals.

In Waynesville, the Member is working towards establishing a good, trusting relationship with the Cherokee Indian Reservation and to make the residents aware of various USDA home ownership and repair programs.

In Boone, the member is working with the Enterprise Community (EC) applicant of Boone to implement their strategic plan. Working in cooperation with the Boone Housing Authority, she is organizing and making functional a Community Development Corporation (CDC) to assist the low-income residents of Boone. To date, over \$1.8 million has been awarded for water and sewer infrastructure and housing assistance as a result of her help.

In Marshall, Member works with the Enterprise Community applicant of Madison County, through the Madison Department of Social Services. In this capacity, she helps with in-home serves to assist individuals and families with home management tasks to enable them to maintain self-sufficiency and avoid out of home placement. Regina has increased the number of families served by the county by even. In addition, she serves 13 other families by assessing the client's functional abilities in the areas of physical health, mental health, social support, activities of daily living, environmental conditions, and finances. She also assessed 15 families and placed the families on waiting lists for services and/or referred them to other agencies.

FS North Carolina

Members completed a needs analysis of parks and recreation centers; worked with city of Asheville on Adaptive Programs; completed an inventory of parks and recreation facilities and developed a Parks and Recreation Department proposal on the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

RECD Tennessee

Member in Jonesborough has begun a survey of local housing needs.

Members in Oneida, Tazewell, and Campbell County have begun researching and writing grants for critical services for their counties.

Member in Hancock County has begun implementing the Empowerment Zone strategic plan throughout the region.

Member in Greene County has been assisting low-income citizens to apply for grants and loans to repair their homes for health and safety standards.

Member in Johnson County is helping the county install and regulate an 911 emergency response system.

NRCS Tennessee

In Rutledge, Members working on the Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative interviewed 43 federal, state, and local tourism professionals, six independent consultants, and 64 local citizens to initially assess project feasibility, community attitudes, tourism development processes, and sources of funding or technical assistance. Established the first-ever tourism advisory board in the region. Began a community-based initiative in Hancock and Grainger Counties to provide technical assistance and "hands-on" service in the establishment and renovation of county museums.

In Cookeville, Members have created a database to track the status of solid waste/recycling progress in each of 14 counties. Members also began a 14-county poster contest in local schools with the theme "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." Successfully convinced 16 schools to start on-site recycling programs. Members have also presented eight environmental education programs to 400 students.

Based in Waverly, Members have significantly improved and expanded the Humphreys County Soil Conservation District environmental center, also known as the Blue Creek Nature Center. Members developed one new trail and improved existing trails. Members conducted six nature tours involving 199 students and 63 adults.

Members based in the Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council in Jackson have dewatered 2.5 million gallons of waste from the storage facilities of five local landowners, and collected soil samples at those sites to ensure safe discharge. Members also created a curriculum on environmental education, including 20 lesson plans and 10 separate activity sheets, and delivered the program, to 20 students.

In Whitley County, Member worked with the Whitley County Communities for Children to provide five cows and two bulls to low-income farm families; the first calf will be given back after mating in order to be delivered to another farm family. Member also delivered 10 Thanksgiving baskets to low-income families.

In Morristown, the Member has conducted conservation outreach to local landowners, installed conservation measures, and has significantly increased the number of local landowners expressing interest in conservation practices. She also began biological studies of local streams to assess their impact upon the watershed.

FS Tennessee

Member developed an infrastructure database; served as project manager for the historic Stearns building renovation project; and administered the Folk Life Study on historical buildings, people, and local folklore in Kentucky.

Member developed a marketing program for recyclable materials; a program called "Garbage Busters" was developed for second graders; grants were written for various proposals and one was approved for a "Learn and Service America" program that focuses on recycling management for elementary students in a five-county area; prepared articles for local newspapers entitled "Trashy Talk"; and completed a presentation for a public education program on oil recycling in Tennessee.

RECD Kentucky

In Magoffin County, the Member is developing, organizing, and implementing a community-based recreational program for teenagers.

In Owsley County, Member created and help obtain grant for East Kentucky Goat Producers Association to focus on agricultural diversification. Member also had photograph taken with the Governor in recognition of his service helping obtain a school-to-work grant for the area.

In Frankfort, the Member completed a survey to determine how local service agencies can better help at-risk families.

In Bell County, Member helped the local Industrial Foundation obtain a \$201,000 grant.

Another Member produced a brochure to help increase tourism to the nearby Kentucky Craft Village. Member is also planning instruction workshops for 15 local craft producers.

In Cumberland Valley, Member assisted in the creation of a Family Preservation Program in eight counties.

Member in Prestonburg helped six low-income families obtain loans.

Member in Barbourville helped four low-income families obtain loans/grants to repair their homes.

Member in Somerset/London helped five low-income families obtain loans.

FS Kentucky

Member developed an infrastructure database; served as project manager for the historic Stearns building renovation project; and administered the Folk Life Study on historical buildings, people, and local folklore in Kentucky.

FS Georgia

Member developed a recreation opportunity guide for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest; conducted wilderness rehabilitation activities; and completed environmental education in the Blood Mountain Wilderness and local communities.

SOUTH CAROLINA

RECD South Carolina

Member in Denmark established an after-school tutorial project.

In Allendale/Blackville, Member established a downtown redevelopment effort concentrating on a historical abandoned hotel.

In Marion County, Member began outreach to improve local housing conditions for low-income residents.

In Williamsburg, Member began attempting to locate land for a future state park.

In Santee-Luynes, Member has been working to statistically document and then reduce the number of teenage pregnancies.

In Eastern Orangeburg, Member began outreach to improve local housing conditions for low-income residents.

In Greater Orangeburg, Member is seek to reduce the number of vacant buildings used for illegal activities by helping identify those premises and working with the city to demolish or improve those buildings.

In Penn Center, Member is completing a survey of community land ownership to stabilize development and establish a plan for a cooperative effort for agriculture processing and development.

FS

Members conducted one Junior Palmetto Leadership training course for 30 high school students; conducted Arbor Day tree planting demonstrations; worked with Head Start program; worked on the Greelyville Nature trail reconstruction project; worked on the Black River Bridge Beautification Project and a 12-mile highway beautification project; worked with NRCS on a flood prevention project; initiated a wetland delineation project for NRCS; and researched background information for the Pocotaligo Swamp restoration project.

NRCS South Carolina

Members conducted waste water sampling of waste management facilities (lagoons) and prepared detailed summary reports for 16 individual farm systems; this testing procedure was the first in South Carolina and will serve as a model for other conservation activities. Tested 600 different soil samples to determine croplands with high levels of phosphorus and acidity and prepared on report on their findings to local farmers. Members expanded inventory on data on farm grasslands to reflect 40,000 acres in order to reduce erosion and improve water quality of nearby streams and lakes. Members built a new front entrance gate and a mile's worth of nature trails at the Adair Outdoor Learning Center in Laurens, which is visited by 3,000 students each year.

Members helped local officials improve emergency response procedures by conducting a county-wide road survey in Edgefield County to inventory and update names and locations, as the first base procedure to reduce delays in 911 emergency responses. Over 600 miles of roads were recorded on base maps and entered into local computer software in order to maintain accurate files. The entire effort saved the county approximately \$20,000, and each AmeriCorps Member was presented a certificate of achievement from county officials.

MISSISSIPPI DELTA

NRCS Mississippi

Members in Hattiesburg began an inventory of tourism resources in an 18-county area of Southeast Missouri.

Members in Brookhaven conducted a large scale communications campaign to solicit volunteers for the "Adopt-A-Stream" program.

Members in Monticello were responsible for pumping out one lagoon, and placing seven on waiting list. Members in Monticello also sponsored a regional meeting, attended by 11 of the 13 counties in the area, to improve rural fire protection services.

Members in Tupelo and Grenada have generated maps and used them in meetings with local fire coordinators to plan dry fire hydrants that will increase local fire protection.

Member in Mississippi has started work on improving local waste management systems.

Member in Pearl nearly completed two outdoor classrooms and a nature trail at Madison Elementary School.

RECD Mississippi

In Cleveland, Member recruited new and emerging leaders in Bolivar County for a community and economic development leadership seminar. Conducted survey of 18-county area as an integral part of the regional strategic plan.

Member in Natchez is working to reduce teenage pregnancy; she spoke personally about her efforts with Senate Majority Whip Trent Lott and "promised to support (her) efforts in Natchez and declared he would be in Natchez in any events that take place if his schedule permits." The Member has also formed a task force to work on reestablishing a YMCA center in Natchez. Another member in Natchez helped two different families obtain funds to repair their home. In her "free time" this member is volunteering for the Illiteracy Program at a local United Methodist Church.

In RECD District IV (Bolivar, Sharkey, Issaquene, Sunflower, and Washington Counties, Member helped five families with poor credit history turn their credit around so they could obtain housing loans.

Member in Madison County recruited 46 local high school students and two teachers to participate in a series of money management workshops.

Member in Madison and Jefferson Counties conducted financial management classes in six senior high school classes reaching 135 students.

Member is working in Jackson to create a "Peer Helpers' group to reduce crimes committed by teenagers. Another Member is working in Jackson to help low-income families obtain loans to purchase their first homes.

In Washington County, member has produced a comprehensive report of available buildings, the labor supply, financial options, cost of utilities, etc. in an 18-county region in order to expand local businesses or attract new businesses.

In Webb, Member helped six low-income citizens obtain single self-help housing units. Member has also provided counseling to the families that have homes under construction to acquaint them with the responsibilities that go along with home ownership.

In Indianola, Member began providing a "Home Buyer's Education Program" for 932 individuals.

Member in Holmes County devised a plan to reduce employee turnover at the Durant Electric Corporation, the largest employer in the county with 600 employees and a payroll of \$8 million. The plan not only convinced the company to reverse its plans to move to Mexico, but allowed the company to hire 400 new employees. Thus, the one USDA AmeriCorps member directly saved or created 1,100 jobs.

The member also held two town meetings, attended by 80 local senior citizens, to inform them of common consumer fraud scams targeted at the elderly.

Member in Yazoo City created a brochure for a new program to create small businesses in the area. This member also coordinated a program in which the MS State Health Educator talked to 900 high school students about teenage pregnancy and abstinence.

FS Mississippi

Member completed one timber bridge application; assisted 21 people in joining and developing a Rural Water Association; distributed recycling literature to individuals and schools; and assisted two small communities with two leadership programs in Mississippi.

RECD Arkansas

One Member works with the Mid-Delta Community Services to help implement the Mid-Delta EC proposal and the East Arkansas EZ proposal. A contact list was developed and will be updated. A list was developed showing MDEC activities that might be undertaken using other funding sources.

One Member works with Crowley & Ridge D.C.A. to train low-income families in child care and has aided two families in receiving help in paying utility bills and receiving food from area churches.

In Forrest City, one Member successfully organized one community meeting to explain to the community and housing programs available through the USDA and completed 10 borrower interviews for housing assistance loans and grants. Another Member helped improve the standard living for 950 low-income families, helping to obtain Home Energy Assistance (HEAP) and to provide assistance through the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP).

In Jonesboro, Member began conducting outreach on USDA housing repair and ownership programs.

In Blytheville, Member is working to implement the Mississippi County Enterprise Community Strategic Plan.

In Mariana, Member began implementing the strategic plan of the Arkansas Mississippi Tri-County EZ, Crittenden County EC, Forrest City Marianna EC, Mid Delta EC, and the Tri State Delta EZ.

In Brinkley, Member began implementing the Eastern Arkansas Empowerment Zone strategic plan by Empowerment Zone Enterprise Community Initiative to implement the strategic plan.

FS Arkansas

Member motivated volunteers to assist with the "Educate the Children Project" which distributes educational material to school districts and some non-profit organizations; completed an inventory of families willing to move out of a flood plain; compiled a list of organizations that could provide assistance to communities in Arkansas.

NRCS Arkansas

Members in Batesville made significant progress towards helping create a local woodland owners association.

Members in Holy Grove began work to help community residents move out of a flood zone. Members have also worked on helping start a "Dads Program," to focus attention on young boys without fathers in the home.

Member in Marion assembled information for area tourism guide.

Another Member in Marion helped provide a rural waterline that will provide seven households -- with 22 residents -- with running water for the first time.

Member in North Little Rock prepared report on state's threatened and endangered species and presented information to representative of city and county governments, Conservation District officials, members of other governmental agencies, leaders of local financial institutions, and local landowners.

Another Member in North Little Rock has identified 10 sites for Pellet Stove Demonstration Projects to stimulate demand for a new product that will boost industry in the region.

A Member in Brinkley provided information on alternative crops to limited resource farmers.

One of the Members in Pine Bluff developed farm and home plans for small and disadvantaged farmers to help them obtain loans to stay on their land.

Member in Helen conducted comprehensive needs survey on Monroe, Phillips, and Lee Counties.

NRCS Louisiana

Made significant progress towards installing 35 dry fire hydrants per parish in order to aid rural fire protection. Performed over 100 pre-assessment surveys that benefited over 100 rural families by identifying threats water quality on their home and farmsteads. Made presentations on the water quality program to 240 high school students.

RECD Louisiana

In Jonesville, Member provided outreach to senior citizens to help them apply for the 504 grant housing program.

In Tallulah, one Member posted loan payments and performed loan servicing and another member helped the Madison Parish Police Jury begin implementing their strategic plan.

In Winsboro, one Member helped citizen fill out 25 applications for the 504 grant housing program and another Member assisted the Macon Ridge Economic Development Region in implementing their strategic plan and participated in the local Head Start Center's "Literacy Week."

In Alexandria, Member provided outreach on USDA and Small Business Administration loans for new businesses, helped organize a Mayor's Adult and Youth Council, helped organize a community clean-up day, and attended public meetings on behalf of the mayor.

In Rayville, Member providing outreach to citizens to obtain rural housing loans.

In Ferriday, Member performed outreach for rural housing, rehabilitations, and guaranteed loan programs.

In Lake Providence, one Member attended local events to promote outreach of local housing and farmer loan programs and another member worked to obtain home repair loans for senior citizens.

In Bastrop, member began providing outreach activities to promote rural housing programs.

FS Louisiana

Member worked with parishes to develop an Area Festival Brochure for Northeast Louisiana; worked on a tourism project with Rymans Library; assisted with a Grant Writing Workshop; contributed to the RC&D's "Rural Community Giving" project; worked on an Elder Care project for senior citizens; worked on a beautification project for roads and highways in one parish; developed a draft tourism

brochure for another parish; assumed responsibility on the Area Demonstration Project on Shitake Mushrooms; assisted with the development of a children's playground; worked with the Outreach Project in Lake Providence; assisted with the development of a tutoring program for individuals to obtain their GED and improve ACT test scores and an education program for adults; and worked on a bridge information summary for Mississippi Delta counties to prepare a bridge infrastructure report for possible timber bridge construction projects in Louisiana.

GREAT LAKES

NRCS Ohio

Member completed a field map of Pickaway County to help protect the Darby Creek watershed. Completed survey and design work to implement Best Management Practices in rural areas, identified local landowners who want trees to be planted on riparian areas; began identifying places on the Big and Little Darby Creeks where point and non-point pollution enters the stream system.

NRCS Michigan

Members conducted quality assessments and provided water quality protection plans to 29 farm families.

NRCS New York

Members have helped digitalize soil surveys and make that information accessible and practice to surrounding communities, including the Seneca Nation of Indians. Members have also assisted with the planning, survey, and design of three wetland restoration projects, two runoff management projects, and three manure management projects.

MINNESOTA

NRCS

Members based in Twin Valley working on the Agassie Recreational Trail Project and designed a tourism brochure along with a logo created through a local contest, worked with the Ada City Council to integrate the trail project with community development, completed a grant proposal for the Heritage & Information Center, and judged at the Norman County East Science Fair for students grades K through 6.

Members based in Twin Valley working on the conservation outreach project recruited local volunteers to jointly clean-up downtown Crookston.

Members based in Cloquet developed a public participation plan for the Nemadji River Basin Project and completed a watershed roadside erosion inventory.

Members based in Lewiston created and implemented a public participation plan for the Whitewater Joint Powers Board and conducted outreach on the Water Quality Incentive Program. Members also helped develop an "enchanted trail" to be a safe haven for children trick-or-treating on Halloween and picked-up trash and brush around the historical Elba Fire Tower.

Members based in Hiawatha began work to improve forage/grassland conditions to the good or excellent category on 5,000 acres, affecting 50 farmers in 11 counties.

Members based in Thief River Falls began work to improve water quality and reduce producer fertilizer input costs by developing and implementing animal waste nutrient utilization and management plans on 120 livestock operations.

FS

Member developed a public access TV show that explains a project being conducted by the RC&Ds to promote the development of a bio-fuels program in cooperation with the US Dept. of Energy; and worked with the Central Minnesota Initiative Fund and two regional economic development groups to assess what must be done by foundations, state/local/federal governments and educational institutions, industry, and financial institutions to encourage the sustainable development of Minnesota's forest products industry.

COLONIAS

RECD Texas

One Member with the Middle Rio Grande Development Council has begun grant applications to attempt to start a revolving loan fund to fund new small businesses locally.

Another Member is helping create a community crime watch program.

Member in Devian, Texas made significant progress towards creating a 5,000 acre Regional Environmental Enterprise Zone to build an innovative and comprehensive facility to meet the solid waste needs of the region for the next 75 to 100 years. The member is also helping establish a magnet high school with emphasis on environmental concerns. Member began implementing project to build 20 Equal Community Housing Opportunity (ECHO) homes for elderly and/or handicapped citizens.

Member in Brownsville helped 25 families without bathroom and kitchen plumbing renovate unsanitary and unsafe bathroom and kitchen plumbing facilities. Member helped 16 families remodel their homes to remove health hazards such as broken windows, old roofs, insulation, etc. Member helped two families obtain new homes that are now under construction.

Member in Laredo make significant progress towards rehabilitating 42 housing units.

Member is working to obtain funds to complete a water feasibility study and is working with three school districts to increase the percentage of high school drop-outs obtaining GEDS.

Member in El Paso helped two elderly women obtain funds to repair their homes, and for a third women ineligible for government loans, recruited a volunteer plumber to repair bathroom and volunteers through the Salvation Army to winterize home.

Member conducted needs surveys in all the sub-zones of the Empowerment Zone.

Members in Hidalgo County have been responsible for construction of nine bathrooms at homes previously without indoor plumbing; three more were finalized, but not yet built, at the end of the quarter.

Member in San Benito is working to provide indoor plumbing to 153 families without such plumbing.

Member in Raymondville worked to provide indoor plumbing to 30 families without such plumbing.

RECD New Mexico

Members in Columbus Colonias began working on a community water project to improve running water in the area.

In Las Cruces, Members held a workshop for 40 residents of local colonias to inform them of available housing programs and how to apply for aid.

In Sunland Park, member made presentations at a local elementary school on Disability Awareness week.

RECD Arizona

Four members are working in EZ/EC applicant communities on a broad range of economic development activities including the creation of a revolving loan fund for small and emerging businesses, recruitment of businesses, surveys of local needs and challenges.

Three members began outreach on 502 and 504 housing programs to targeted areas.

RECD California

Two Members in El Centro have been conducting outreach to expand usage of the 504 programs to provide grants and loans for low income families to repair their homes; by the end of the first quarter, two applications for repairs had been approved and the work was completed, two more had just been approved, and four more were in the process of being approved. The other Member is working for the County Community Economic Development Office and helped Spanish-speaking citizens fill-out their forms in English, obtain 50 donated Christmas trees for low-income residents and helped plan crime prevention, alcohol and drug awareness, and economic development assistance.

FOUR CORNERS

NRCS Arizona/

Members in Holbrook, Arizona began an assessment of small-scale agriculture needs on the Hopi and Navajo Reservations.

Members have also begun socioeconomic and infrastructure survey in selected communities.

NRCS New Mexico

Members based in Albuquerque began their service after the end of the first quarter.

In San Juan, Members have begun to inventory private woodlands and started to conduct a resource and rangeland inventory on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

NRCS/FS Utah

Members have begun service conducting an analysis of the potential for local resource-based, value-added industries in the region and assist limited resource farmers in developing small-scale agriculture enterprises.

FS Arizona/New Mexico, Colorado

Members primarily training, obtaining facilities, and establishing relationships in communities and with other participating agencies. One Community Action Plan completed in Colorado.

RECD New Mexico

In Grants, Member has recruited 2-3 individuals in each of eight communities to form community councils to make housing programs more available to low-income individuals.

In San Juan County, Member made presentation to senior citizens group on how to apply for funds to repair their homes.

Member in Gallup conducted a training on loan packaging for 19 community residents including representatives from local non-profit groups, church leaders, and Native American Community leaders.

In Baker City, Member has recruited three property owners who have agreed to use their properties as pilot locations for historic renovations.

In Oakridge, Member drafted a new land use ordinance of the City that was presented to a planning commission in December 1994. The member also drafted an update of a local Strategic Economic Development Plan.

In Coquille, Member promoted the Housing Repair Loan and Grant Program by creating a brochure she is distributing throughout town, writing an article for the local newspaper, and assisted community members in the application process.

In Cave Junction, Member is acting as Community Development Coordinator for the Illinois Valley 2010 Community Response Team.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

RECD Oregon

In Pendleton, Member helped two low-income individuals receive a loan and one individual to receive a grant to repair their homes.

In Elgin, Member assisted HELP, Inc. in a Housing Preservation Grant that allowed 11 low-income and very low-income families to repair and rehabilitate their homes. The Member verified eligibility, determined preservation needs, identified environmental effects, and awarded bids to housing contractors.

In Roseburg, Member has been assisting the Umpqua Action Network to promote their home repair program and find housing for the homeless.

In Ontario, Member helped family whose home had been damaged by a fire obtain a loan to pay for

repairs of the house.

FS Oregon

Member researched and disseminated information and examples of strategic planning for a Strategic Planning Task Force; developed a data base for funding sources; completed preliminary planning stages for a riparian regulation workshop, water quality projects, and preliminary research on a nitrate project; established a grant writing team; updated a comprehensive plan; and promoted a recycling effort for the holidays.

NRCS Oregon (Grant's Pass)

Members are working to explain riparian projects to local landowners and are encouraging their participation in stream enhancement program.

RECD Washington

In Grant County, Member began developing and implementing a comprehensive community needs survey.

Based in Yakima County, Members are working to implement EZ/EC economic plan and to develop a statewide, regional, and local inventory of housing resources.

Based in Wenatchee County, Members have begun a comprehensive inventory of community resources.

MIDWEST FLOOD STATES

Missouri

In Columbia, Member began preparing guide sheets and a handbook to aid reclamation of two smaller tributaries of the Missouri River.

In Charles County, Member obtained existing floodplain management data to begin developing a Decision Support System computer model for floodplain management.

In Howard County, Member produced an informational memo on flood recovery that was distributed by the Extension Service and also began collecting hydrologic and agronomic data in order to propose land-use alternatives for the area.

In Columbia, Member completed seven basin reports to aid watershed protection.

In St. Charles County, Member provided emergency program assistance to 32 landusers.

In Jefferson City, Member completed data collection for pasture and hayland management booklet and developed soil and water conservation lesson plan for eventual presentation at 23 local schools.

In Troy, Member investigated local floodwater retarding dams to determine workload.

In Higginsville Member, who started work December 12, 1994, is working to assist sponsors to complete five dam safety reports and perform maintenance on 15 floodwater retarding dams.

In Warrensburg, Member provided assistance to landowners concerning EWP and ECP flood recovery work.

In Butler, Member prepared watershed soils planning map for the Miami Creek Water Quality project and provided assistance to 450 landusers.

In Marshal, Member completed maps on five farms of the sands deposits created by the floods of 1993.

In Fayette, Member assisted five sponsors and 15 landowners to provide flood protection recovery through the Emergency Watershed Program.

Iowa

Member conducted outreach to increase the number of farmers in the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program. Have prepared maps and written materials to assist County Conservation Boards in Fremont, Mills, Pottawattamie, Harrison, Monona, and Woodbury counties in locating areas for potential in recreation, tourism, economic development, and wildlife areas. Member revised brochure for Western Iowa and worked to develop bicycle loops for area cycling clubs; scheduled pasture walks and seminars with local farmers to promote and develop rotational grazing systems; updating tourism guides, writing scripts for tours, restoring a farmer's market, and taking an inventory of resources in the African-American community to create an agricultural heritage area in Northeast Iowa.

Illinois

In Pittsfield, Members completed a Small Businesses Research and Revitalization Project and are helping update the town's Overall economic development plan. Members have also begun to identify and promote alternative uses of land in the Conservation Reserve Program by surveying farmers currently enrolled in the program.

North Dakota

Member completed scope and effect determinations on 57 wetland tracts in areas most at risk of future flooding; began measuring and sealing abandoned wells; helping clean up trailer park damaged by flooding in 1993.

Kansas

Based in Topeka, Members completed 15% of riparian work in Douglas County and completed 2% of transepts.

Based in Hays, Members completed off-site review in eight townships, identified all wetlands in two townships, completing 40% of riparian mapping in 30 townships, and finished six riparian transepts.

Based in Dodge City, Members completed remote sensing work --- using satellite technology to identify status of land ---- in six townships.

Based in Hutchinson, Members completed 308% of remote sensing for wetlands inventory in 15 townships.

Based in Lyon County, Member completed riparian mapping of six townships, completed remote sensing on six townships, completed one field visit to township to verify wetland signature.

Basin in Manhattan, Members mapped 20% of Riley County for riparian work, completed 12 transepts, and made site checks for potential wetlands on 60,000 acres.

Based in Salina, Member stenciled 200 United States Geological Survey maps.

Based in Abilene, Members worked with five agricultural producers to discuss systems and designs for agricultural waste management. Worked with 5th graders in explaining soil conservation and non-point source pollution.

Wisconsin

Members began digitalizing soil surveys in preparation for providing outreach to the communities on these topics.

CALIFORNIA

In Apple valley, Members have been working with local agencies to streamline the permit process for soil scientists to be able to analyze the soil for mapping. Members also prepared a curriculum on soil for a local high school.

In Auburn, Members have made significant progress creating and implementing fuel reduction plans to reduce forest and other fires in the area.

In Lancaster and Somis, Members have focused on areas previously impacted by fires and by flooding and have completed a mitigation plan for the Kinneola area and have completed field work for the Laguna mitigation plan. In Petaluma, the Member has begun water quality sampling on three adjacent dairies and has completed one conservation plan.

In Santa Rosa, the Member has trained one dairy operator to use a water quality test kit, is developing plans to provide such assistance to members of four different local organizations, and has completed inventory work for a watershed group. In Ukiah, the Member has formed client partnerships to aid two severely eroded streams, has helped the Round Valley Tribal Community treated 2 miles of stream, and signed up four local growers for a cost share program to convert to the water-saving drip irrigation program.

In Redlands, Members have surveyed three dairies totaling 130 acres, eventually leading to recycling or eliminating 6,867 tons of waste once practices have been implemented. Each farmers saved an average of about \$9,000 by having the service performed by AmeriCorps members instead of private contractors. The members also completed a survey of a 5-acre ranch which will eventually lead to the recycling of 26.5 tons of waste a year. One of the members helps coordinate and teach and Nature Discovery Program that benefited 690 local elementary students. Members also staked and surveyed almost a mile's length of the Big Rathbone Creek in order to begin reducing the risk of flooding to area residents.

Accomplishments of the Northwest Service Academy:

While the Northwest Service Academy AmeriCorps was not specifically part of USDA's direct grant from the Corporation for National Service, the USDA Forest Service played a leading role in creating and managing the program. Forest Service employees have provided significant and continuing planning and technical assistance, and much of the service has been performed on Forest Service Lands. In addition, it is likely that the Northwest Service Academy will be tied to this year's USDA's direct application to the Corporation for National and Community Service. Therefore, this reports includes the Academy's first quarter accomplishments on Forest Service lands:

Cascade Streamwatch: The objective was to maintain 2 miles of interpretive trail and harden six riverside sites while providing on-site education to 300 students. The Members maintained 3 miles of trail, constructed another quarter mile of trail, hardened 8 sites and provided on-site education to over 300 students.

Road Restoration: The objective was to seed, fertilize and mulch 9 miles of abandoned roads and skid trails. All objectives were met.

Wildlife Cutting: The objective was to collect 30,000 willow and cottonwood cuttings for wildlife plantings this coming spring. All objectives were met.

Huckleberry Field Restoration: The objective was to restore 82 acres of sacred tribal huckleberry fields on National Forest Lands for the Warm Springs and Yakima Tribal nations. 12 acres of huckleberry fields were burned and another 70 acres of conifer trees were hand girdled and pruned.

Snag Surveys: The objective was to survey 1,200 acres of snag habitat to determine critical habitat needs for a variety endangered species including the Northern Spotted Owl. Two hundred acres were completed before the winter snows forced the teams out.

Roadbank Restoration: The objective was to ang erosion control netting on 300 feet of steep Forest Service road cutbanks. All the objectives were met by Members.

Elk Forage Enhancement: The objective was to restore 40 acres of critical elk habitat. Members helped burn 40 acres for forage enhancement.

Fisheries Projects: 1) The objective was to build salmon smolt rearing channels along 1/4 mile of the Clackamas River and install nine fish protective structures in the channel. Members met all objectives.

Bull Run Watershed Monitoring: The objective was to open all roads to critical water monitoring sites after an early winter snowstorm. Members helped clear 15 miles of road that were critical in maintaining consistent records stretching back over half a century.

White Pine Blister Rust Control: The objective was to prune 20 acres of plantation. Members completed 22 acres of pruning.

Plantation Enhancement: The objective was to prune 80 acres of Douglas Fir plantations to enhance the final quality of timber produced. Members completed 80 acres.

Glacier Springs: The objective was to construct 2,800 feet of fence around Glacier Springs,

Trout Lake's municipal watershed. Members completed 1,000 feet before the winter snows.

Wells Island: The objective was to clear five acres of brush and noxious weeds to improve wildlife habitat for Canadian geese, herons and bald eagles. Members met all objectives.

Rho Ridge, Buck Creek and Whistle Punk Trails: The objective was to complete 5.6 miles of trails, 1.2 miles of which was designed for the physically challenged trail. Members met all objectives.

Primary challenges

In order to meet President Clinton's vision for bringing this exciting new program to the American people rapidly, USDA faced great difficulties in starting such a large and complex program with only a few months between approval of our application and the launch. While we have had our share of relatively minor start-up problems, we are dealing them with a process of continuous improvement based on constant consultation and site visits with local project managers.

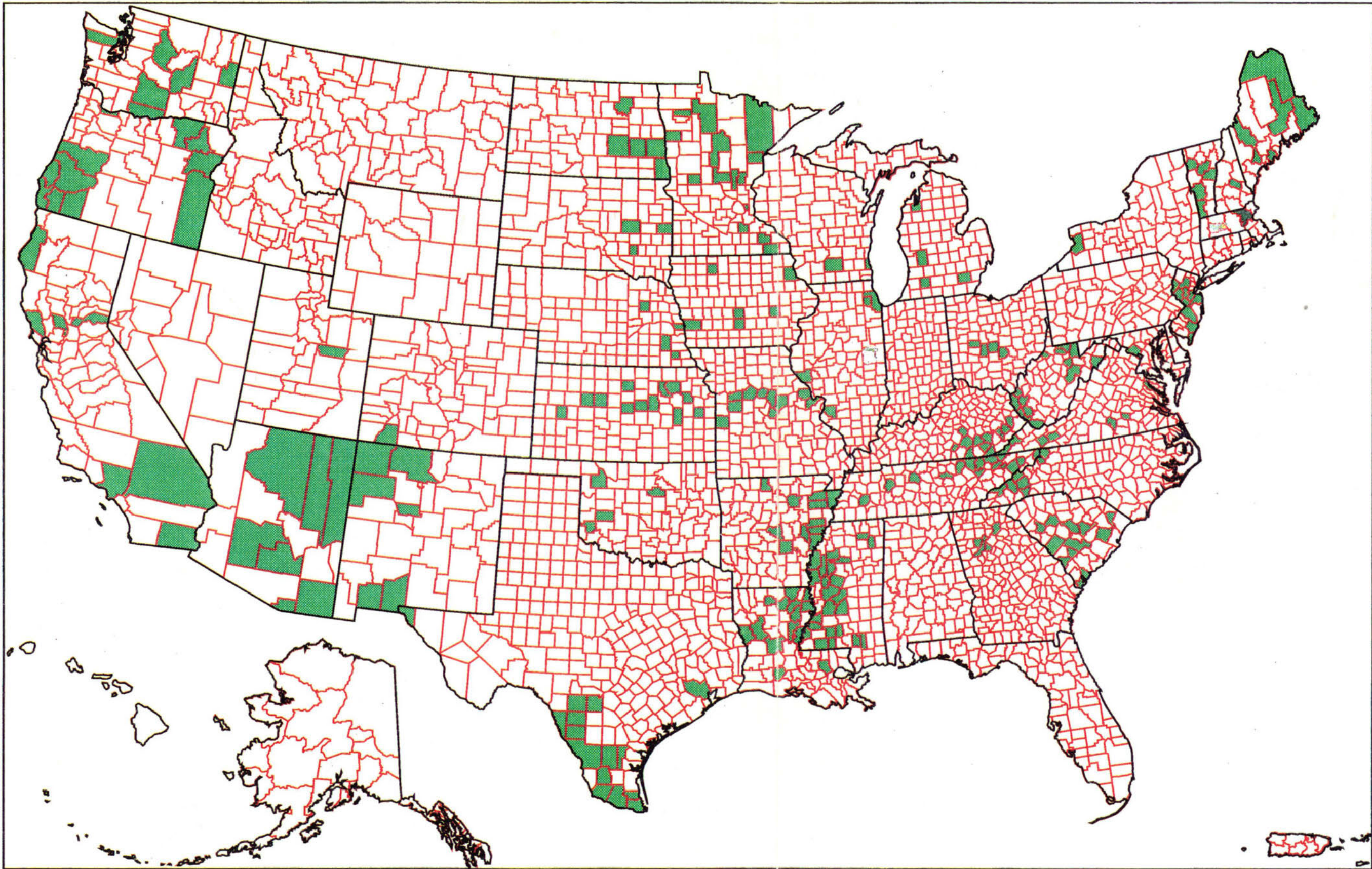
National identity activities this quarter

USDA has woven the national AmeriCorps identity and philosophy into every steps of our program. Most sites participated in either launch activities on September 12, 1994 or subsequently. All USDA members are required to wear at least one article of uniform identifying them as AmeriCorps Members. All our press releases and informational materials are now required to have at least two standard paragraphs on AmeriCorps. Since the start of the program, USDA/AmeriCorps members have met with President Clinton in California, Vice-President Gore in Kentucky, Senators Leahy and Jeffords in Vermont, Secretary Espy in Mississippi, Acting Secretary Rominger in California, Missouri, and Maine, and CNCS Eli Segal in Vermont, Texas, and Iowa. The Chief of the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Paul Johnson, a former Peace Corps volunteer, also visited sites around the country and explained his especially-relevant view of national service.

USDA Director of National Service Joel Berg has visited sites, worked alongside Members, and explained the AmeriCorps vision in Washington, Oregon, California, Nebraska, Georgia, Vermont, and the District of Columbia. USDA agency AmeriCorps coordinators David Gibson, Paula Cole Jones, and Lou Woltering have also made numerous site visits throughout the country in order to spread the AmeriCorps message.

COUNTIES WITH USDA AMERICORPS PROJECTS

Wingski
456-2259





ANIMAL WASTE PROJECT

THIEF RIVER FALLS, MINNESOTA



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

2017 Hwy 59 South
Thief River Falls MN 56701



AMERICORPS/USDA QUARTERLY REPORT
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
THIEF RIVER FALLS MN
(ANIMAL WASTE PROJECT)

A) Number of Members enroled at end of quarter vs. number enroled at the time of the launch

2 / 3

B) Total numbers of hours of direct service performed by existing Members and total number of hours existing Members were in training

423 / 156

C) Any major staff or structural changes you have made

Our rural development member, Dennis Debrates, resigned October 11 and was replaced by Joy L. Swenson on October 18. One of our environmental corps members, Lynell Wayne, resigned November 14 and was not replaced.

D) Progress towards meeting community service objectives

Objective #1 is to improve water quality and reduce producer fertilizer input costs significantly by developing and implementing animal waste utilization and nutrient management plans on 120 livestock operations. (Objective #1 encompasses two goals.) Goal #1 of Objective #1 is to carry out an info/ed campaign targeted at livestock producers to explain the benefits of animal waste facilities and waste utilization planning. (Goal #1 encompasses six action items. Members have worked with all but the #4 action item.) The Members have developed a questionnaire to use with producers to help gain information to determine their needs. Members have written 3 articles to disseminate information about the benefits of waste utilization and the AmeriCorps program. Minnesota Extension Service, Minnesota Department of Ag, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, have been assisting with developing a waste utilization field day. The Members have taken pictures for a waste utilization display. Members have solicited volunteers to aid monthly community service projects. Goal #2 of Objective #1 is to develop waste utilization and nutrient management plans for 120 existing animal waste systems. (Goal #2 encompasses eight action items. Members have worked with all but action items #3 and #4.) The Members have prepared an inventory of livestock producers in

had expired so we cannot replace her. The change in staff numbers will require that the project work plan be revised. Key objectives and goals will reflect less units to be completed. It is anticipated that major production items will be reduced by one third.

G) Primary training and technical assistance needed

There is a need for advise and training of expert educators and media specialist on working with the media. See attached training plan for training completed and training requested but not received to data.

H) Media Coverage

The *Northern Watch* ran a story in October. (News release attached.)

Two news releases have been developed to be sent to local newspapers. (Attached)

KXJB TV ran stories on October 18 and November 23. (Video attached.)

A flier for the monthly community project in December was developed and posted at places in the community. (Attached)

I) Other Creative Documentation

Item #1 is a copy of a journal entry by a Member, Joy L. Swenson. As you can read, Joy has felt that the project has had success. She is enthusiastic about the way things are going in the program.

8 of the 12 counties in Northwest Minnesota. Members have worked with 7 livestock producers and have developed nutrient management plans for 3 livestock operations. Possible funding to help pay for first soil tests is being sought. The Members have started to compile a list of manure spreading equipment, costs and possible rates of application. Members have met with and described AmeriCorps projects with many individuals, including State and Local Government organizations, and equipment and fertilizer dealers.

Objective #2 is to provide training to AmeriCorps members that will enable them to carry out their assigned responsibilities, as described in objective #1. The Members have received training in nutrient management, soil & manure testing, use of soil survey, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) feedlot permitting, safety/health, computers, sexual harassment, conflict resolution, team building, Right to Know and EEO/CR.

In general, the work progressed well, but, as expected, the objectives accomplished in the first quarter were not equal to one fourth of the total objectives; this was due to our program starting October 1 and the Members spending their first week in an orientation and other days in training in which they performed little direct service. We expect progress to speed next quarter.

E) Primary accomplishments

One of the existing Members attended a one week orientation in which he participated in classes, audio-visual presentations, physical demonstrations, discussions and workshops related to: the AmeriCorps concept, basic citizenship, CPR and first aid, safety, program rules, diversity, EEO/CR and defensive driving. The other existing Member arrived later. Therefore, her training on these subjects is not complete, but progressing. The Members have had separate training in nutrient management, soils, computers, and team building.

Work on the project's action items has progressed at a steady pace. Although the start of a new program posed some difficulties, the Members have been able to move forward with their objectives.

F) Primary challenges

One member dropped out at the start of the program; she had the opportunity for a position closer to her home. Fortunately, that member could be replaced. Another member dropped out later; she received employment better suited to her family needs. Unfortunately, she left after six weeks

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File Code 260-19

NEWS

United States
Department of
Agriculture

AmeriCorps
2017 Hwy 59 South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Soil
Conservation
Service

Thief River Falls, MN 10/27/94... Fred Kollmann project director Soil Conservation Service, Thief River Falls, announced that Lynell Wayne and Graeme Belcher of Thief River Falls, MN and Joy Swenson of Fargo, ND have begun their AmeriCorps service on October 3. Wayne, Belcher and Swenson will be located in the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) area office. They are among 20 AmeriCorps members selected to work with the USDA SCS in Minnesota between now and through August 1995.

Kollmann said the AmeriCorps members will be working on a twelve county project designed to increase awareness of animal waste and nutrient management programs.

The members began their service during a USDA SCS AmeriCorps orientation program, October 3-7 1994 in St. Paul.

Gary Nordstrom, state conservationist, SCS in St. Paul, said "AmeriCorps is an exciting opportunity to help us get things done with people in the community. A lot of people competed for our 20 AmeriCorps positions. We will

demand quality work from them, just as though they were SCS federal employees, and I do expect them to be highly visible to the people in the community."

AmeriCorps represents President Clinton's fulfillment of a campaign pledge to create a national service program--a domestic Peace Corps of 20,000 AmeriCorps members.

The SCS AmeriCorps members will work 1,700 hours during their service time, will receive a living allowance between \$7,660 to \$12,000, and each AmeriCorps member who successfully completes their service requirements will be awarded an educational grant of \$4,725.

Minnesota's USDA SCS 20 AmeriCorps members are headquartered out of five project sites and will be working on six different natural resource projects. The projects focus on watershed public participation in Cloquet and Lewiston; conservation outreach and trails promotion in Twin Valley; grassland and pasture management in Rochester; and animal waste management in Thief River Falls.

For more information about AmeriCorps, contact any local office of the USDA SCS. Their offices are located in county seat towns throughout Minnesota.

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Rev. 10/94

NEWS

*United States
Department of
Agriculture*

*Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service*



On Friday, December 16, 1994 AmeriCorps members in northwest Minnesota will work jointly with the Agassiz Wildlife Refuge on a treelot cleanup project.

AmeriCorps is the President's national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's critical education, human service, public safety, and environmental needs at the community level.

The Agassiz Wildlife Refuge and area AmeriCorps members will be cleaning out selected treelots along the Refuge's trails. The cleaning consists of thinning selected areas to promote vegetation growth in the spring and provide habitat for small animals such as rabbits during the winter. AmeriCorps is looking for people who would like to help participate with the project. Coffee and hot cocoa will be provided, however, lunch will not be provided. For additional information, contact Graeme Belcher or Joy Swenson at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formally Soil Conservation Service) at (218) 681-6600.

(More)

Nationally, AmeriCorps is providing opportunities for 20,000 Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their community in organized efforts, fostering citizens responsibility and and building their communities. Americans age 17 or older can make a substantial commitment to their country and earn education awards for college or vocational training in return.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 690-1539 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

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Rev. 10/94

NEWS

*United States
Department of
Agriculture*

*Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service*



November 31, 1994

AmeriCorps and Nutrient Management

AmeriCorps is the President's national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's environmental needs at the community level. AmeriCorps is the President's domestic peace corps program.

Nationally, AmeriCorps is providing opportunities for 20,000 Americans to serve their country in organized efforts building their communities. These people can make a great commitment to their country and earn education awards for college or vocational training in return.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (formally the Soil Conservation Service) has selected 20 AmeriCorps members. From October 3, 1994, thru August 1995, these people will serve 1,700 hours in one of six projects in Minnesota. The USDA NRCS, in cooperation with a wide variety of local, state and other federal government agencies and organizations, is playing a key role in AmeriCorps.

One of the AmeriCorps projects involves working in Northwest Minnesota on nutrient management in the 12 county area. Two AmeriCorps members will help agency clientele in planning and managing livestock animal waste storage facilities. The mission of this particular project is to increase public awareness of sustainable agricultural practices that are more cost effective for the producer. These practices are hoped to save the producer time and money in his or her farming practices.

Joy L. Swenson and Graeme Belcher are the two members working on the Nutrient Management project. Their duties include working with local, state and federal agencies, working with media to implement and carry out project plan as scheduled, participating in team building activities, working with individual landowners, and identifying potential partners that can provide resources to local AmeriCorps projects.

To help achieve the mission, two goals have been incorporated into the work plan. One of the goals is to carry out an informational campaign targeted at livestock producers to explain the benefits of animal waste facilities and waste utilization planning. Another goal is to develop waste utilization and nutrient management plans for 120 existing livestock producers.

Presently, the AmeriCorps Nutrient Management project is working with four livestock producers in the 12 county area. Of those, two of them currently have animal waste systems and find them to be a very beneficial addition to their farm. Lowell Smeby of Grygla, MN states, "My farm saves approximately 1 1/2 hours a day in time spent hauling manure now that an animal waste system has been installed. An even better benefit is the fact that my equipment will be used less from day to day especially in the winter." Mr. Smeby estimates

that this reduction will also be a cost benefit because maintenance and repair will be needed less frequently.

Smeby's system is designed to allow him to remove the manure from his stacking slab once per year. The manure will be utilized as fertilizer on fields close to the Smeby farm. Manure is a valuable source of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. While it will not totally replace commercial fertilizer needs, it will reduce the amount that the farm needs. Thus, reducing fertilizer cost.

If you are interested in learning more about animal waste systems or manure management, please contact Joy L. Swenson or Graeme Belcher at the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Thief River Falls or contact your local NRCS office. The number in Thief River Falls is 218-681-6600.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 690-1538 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

AmeriCorps

and

Agassiz Wildlife Refuge

presents

Cabins for Critters

on Friday, December 16, 1994



Come and help the Northwest Minnesota AmeriCorps members provide habitat for the animals of the Agassiz Wildlife Refuge. On December 16, 1994, starting at 10:30am, AmeriCorps will start the project on the trails of the Refuge. If you would like to help out with the project, please contact Joy Swenson or Graeme Belcher at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office at 218-681-6600.

Coffee and cocoa provided by Jubilee Foods of Thief River Falls, MN.

Item 1 :

Journal of Joy L. Swenson Mon.

10-24-94

Today, Fred talked with us about Nutrient Management plans.

I now have some idea as to how they are made. It is quite a long & involved process.

In the afternoon, we traveled up to Hallak to talk with Dave Rose (District Conservationist) about getting some names for our inventory list.

He was quite helpful & open for us to work with. We now have lots of info. (well, not a whole bunch, but enough) to work with.

AmeriCorps
 Joy L. Swenson
 Nutrient Management
 Thief River Falls, MN

Training Plan

Days of Training	N - Days in (Class) O - Days out (Field)												Trainers				
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	NRCS	SWCD	BWSR	Others		
Job Orientation		1/2N											X			= 4 hrs	
Safety - Workplace R.T.K.		1/2N										X				= 4 hrs	
Equipment Use		1N										X				= 8 hrs	
CPR																	
First Aid																	
Team Building																	
Effective Presentations																	
EEO/CR Activities																	
Career Days																	
Conflict Resolution																	
Community Service																	
Self Improvement/Development																	
TQM Awareness																	
Defensive Driving																	
Media Relations																	
Computer Use		1/2N										X				= 4 hrs	
Resource Awareness																	
Forestry																	
Soils		1/2N	1/2O									X				= 8 hrs	
Conservation		1N										X				= 8 hrs	
Environment/Weather/Ecosystems																	
Water Quality																	
Range & Plants																	
Crops/Farming																	
Wildlife																	
Project Wild (Done at previous employment.)															X		
Project Learning Tree (Done at previous employment.)															X		
Nutrient Management		2N	1N									X				= 24 hrs	

60 hrs. Total during

AmeriCorps
 Graeme Belcher
 Nutrient Management
 Thief River Falls, MN

Training Plan

Days of Training	N - Days In (Class) O - Days out (Field)												Trainers			
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	NRCS	SWCD	BWSR	Others	
Job Orientation		1/1										X				2
Safety - Workplace R.T.K.		1/1										X				1
Equipment Use		1/1										X				3
CPR		1/1														1
First Aid		1/1														1
Team Building		1/1													X	1
Effective Presentations																
EEO/CR Activities		2/1										X				4
Career Days																
Conflict Resolution		1/1										X				4
Community Service																
Self Improvement/Development																
TQM Awareness																
Defensive Driving		1/1														2
Nutrient Management Plan		2/1	1/1									X				24
Computer/Fax/Copier			1/1									X				4
Resource Awareness																
Forestry																
Soils		1/1	1/1									Y				12
Conservation		1/1										X				1
Environment/Weather/Ecosystems																
Water Quality																
Range & Plants																
Crops/Farming																
Wildlife																
Project Wild																
Project Learning Tree																

total

96

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FAX NO. 2186815598

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

2017 Hwy 59 South
Thief River Falls MN 56701



PROJECT LOCATION: Thief River Falls, MN

AMERICORPS PROJECT

Program Director: Fred Kollmann

Animal waste storage facilities/Waste Utilization Project
(Clearwater, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Polk, Kittson, Mahnommen, Marshall,
Hubbard, Red Lake, Roseau, Pennington, Norman)

Mission: Increase public awareness of sustainable agricultural practices
that reduce feedlot runoff and pollution problems caused by flooding and high
runoff events.

Objective #1 Improve water quality and reduce producer fertilizer input costs significantly by developing and implementing animal waste utilization and nutrient management plans on 80 livestock operation. 2,667 hrs.

Goal #1 Carry out an info/ed campaign targeted at livestock producers to explain the benefits of animal waste facilities and waste utilization planning.

ACTION ITEMS	WHO	START	END
1. Develop a questionnaire to use with producers practicing proper waste utilization that will help determine the value of proper waste utilization. Identify and survey 14 livestock producers utilizing questionnaire.	RD Member EC Member	12/94	1/95
2. Write and publish 8 articles and 1 brochure based on data collected on survey to disseminate information about the benefits of waste utilization citing producer experiences and outside groups.	RD Member EC Member	2/95	9/95
3. Work with Extension to have a waste utilization field day demonstrating application and incorporation methods, sampling procedures and cost savings	RD Member EC Member	3/95	9/95
4. Solicit outside funds and assistance to help develop video/slide tape presentation to be used in promoting proper waste utilization. Present program to 5 livestock producers and conservation organizations.	RD Member EC Member	10/94	7/95
5. Develop display describing benefits of waste utilization. Use at county fairs and field days.	RD Member EC Member	12/94	6/95
6. Enlist volunteer to aid in project implementation.	RD Member EC Member	12/94	8/95

PROJECT LOCATION: Thief River Falls, MN

GOAL #2 Develop waste utilization and nutrient management plans for 80 existing animal waste systems.

ACTION ITEMS	WHO	START	END
1. Prepare inventory of livestock producers in each county. Prioritize 80 with existing facilities and 40 without facilities.	RD Member EC Member	10/94	12/94
2. Work with 80 identified producers to obtain manure and soil samples. Seek possible funding to help pay for first tests to get producers started.	RD Member EC Member	10/94	9/95
3. Gather and compile a list of average nutrient values of manure from local producer tests based on different feed rations and bedding. Compare these values with table values being used to check accuracy.	RD Member EC Member	10/94	9/95
4. Develop and implement strategies to digitize ASCS slides that will enable their use in waste storage facility and waste utilization planning and design.	RD Member EC Member	10/94	9/95
5. Work with Extension, producers and local equipment dealers, to develop a list of manure spreading equipment, costs, possible rates of application and commercial applicators.	RD Member EC member	1/95	3/95
6. Develop waste utilization plans and provide follow-up assistance to monitor operations.	RD Member EC Member	1/95	9/95

PROJECT LOCATION: Thief River Falls, MN

GOAL #2 Develop waste utilization and nutrient management plans for 80 existing animal waste systems.

ACTION ITEMS	WHO	START	END
7. Contact 40 livestock producers and explain the benefits of installing animal waste storage facilities.	RD Member EC Member	1/95	9/95
8. Meet with and describe Ameri-Corps projects objectives with livestock growers, organizations, conservation groups, agencies and equipment dealers. Discuss goals, needs, and accomplishments at the beginning and toward end of project.	RD Member EC Member	10/94	

PROJECT LOCATION: Thief River Falls, MN

Objective #2: To provide training to AmeriCorps members that will enable them to carry out their assigned responsibilities, as described in objective #1 733 hrs

Training

(Animal Waste Storage Facility/Waste Utilization)

	<u>Trainer</u>
Nutrient Management	Kollmann
Soil & Manure Testing	Extension
Waste Utilization Planning	Kollmann
Cost Share Programs	Kollmann/DC's
Waste Storage Facilities	Peterson/Kollmann/DC's
Use of Soil Survey	Heschke
MPCA Feedlot Permitting	Peterson/MPCA Personnel
FLEVAL - MAP computer program training	Kollmann/Peterson/DC's
Map and photo reading	Kollmann/DC's
Waste handling equipment	Kollmann/Equipment Dealers
Safety/Health	NRCS and Outside Trainers
Defensive driving	
First Aid	
CPR	
Aids	
Drug Free Workplace	
Computer - word processing	Lindquist
CAMPS	
Community Involvement/Betterment	
Sexual Harassment	NRCS Trainers
Conflict Resolution	NRCS Trainers
Team Building	NRCS Trainers
Working with the Media and conducting interviews	Price

PROJECT LOCATION: Thief River Falls, MN

Right to Know - Hazardous Material	NRCS Trainers
Communication-Effective Presentations	NRCS Trainers
Government vehicle Use and Maintenance	Carlson
Effective Communications Use of visual aids and related equipment.	Price
Photography and Camera Use	
Timekeeping	Carlson
Time Management and Scheduling	Kollmann
EEO/CR Training	Kajewski
Cultural Diversity Training	Kajewski
Overview of Project	Orientation
Conduct and Ethics	Orientation
AmeriCorps member benefits	Orientation

PROJECT LOCATION: Thief River Falls, MN

Rural Development

Environmental Corps

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Animal waste storage facility/Waste utilization plans

Duties:

1. Work with local, state and federal agencies
2. Work with media
Implement and carry out project plan as scheduled
3. Assist with project evaluation activities
4. Participate in teambuilding activities and work as a team member
5. Work with individual landowners
6. Identify potential partners that can provide resources to local AmeriCorps projects.
Enlist or recruit outside sources to help implement the project plan
7. Maintain daily journal
- *8 Provide coordination and oversight to Environmental Corps members to carry out project activities.

*For Rural Development Corps members

Skills needed:

1. Communication-written and verbal
2. Basic computer knowledge
3. Organizational-time management, scheduling
Interpersonal
4. Leadership ability
5. Salesmanship
6. Marketing
7. A valid MN driver's license is required to the AmeriCorps members to carry out their responsibilities. Night driving may also be required to carry out duties of the position.

PROJECT LOCATION: Thief River Falls, MN

Orientation

1. Code of conduct
Code of ethics
2. AmeriCorps Program
3. Alphabet Soup
4. Administration
5. Awards/Recognition



AGASSIE RECREATIONAL TRAIL

TWIN VALLEY, MINNESOTA

Dir.

FIRST QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
AGASSIE RECREATIONAL TRAIL
TWIN VALLEY MN

- 1) Number of Members at the time of the launch
4
- 2) Number of Members enrolled at the end of the Quarter
4
- 3) Total number of hours of direct service performed
1,204
- 4) Total number of hours in training
175
- 5) Progress towards meeting community service objectives
 - a. Trail brochure design complete
 - b. Assisting Ada city council with trail development
 - c. One of the grant proposals complete
 - d. Ground breaking ceremony for the Trail
 - e. Norman Co. East Science Fair
 - f. Crockston Cleanup
- 6) Primary Accomplishments
 - a. Trail brochure the design of the brochure is complete along with the logo which was developed through a logo contest
 - b. have been working with the Ada City Council on community development and with the towns trails as part of the area tourism development
 - c. the grant proposal for a Heritage & Information Center is complete. This facility is to be located on the trail in the town of Twin Valley
 - d. Oct.18 1994 was the ground breaking ceremony for the Trail. The Americorps members got sponsors, speakers, and set up all media coverage ie. papers, radio, and TV
 - e. the americorps members were judges at the Norman Co. East Science Fair for grades K through 6
 - f. With other cluster group in Northern Minn. to clean up downtown Crockston

7. Projected Outcomes For Next Quarter
 - a. Another set of fact sheets concerning the Trail progress and tourism
 - b. Brochure completed. The design is now complete and hope to complete printing in 2 quarter
 - c. Make contact with local business to get support for the trail development and to involve the business in the tourism effort

8. Primary Challenges
 - a. The timing of recruitment was not conducive to maximum participation. The recruiting should be done during the early part of the Spring Quarter or mid-semester. Also, recruiting ended after people should have already been on the job.
 - b. Lack of funds have affected supply availability. DOS computers are needed and are lacking. Also, lack of money has limited travel for training.
 - c. Communication between the field and Washington could be improved. An example is the approval of news releases by Washington. The Americorps members just found this out the first week of December.
 - d. Uniforms issued to the americorps members amounted to a hat or a T-shirt. The members one T-shirt has worn out and two members have broken hats.

9. See Attached

10. The FSA state coordinator sent all the first week of December.

11. See Attached 2 items

5

QUARTERLY REPORT
ART
TWIN VALLEY MN

Supplement to Primary Accomplishments

Recently, the Americorps members from the Twin Valley cluster and the Thief River Cluster participated in a leadership/team building Ropes Adventure Course. Individual goals were set at the beginning of the day. Through teamwork, those goals were met. Fears were overcome, trust developed, and good working relationships were forged.

Jeff York Twin Valley Mn Cluster



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Soil
Conservation
Service

FCS BLDG., SUITE 600
375 JACKSON STREET
ST. PAUL, MN 55101

Subject: USDA AmeriCorps First Quarter
Reports

Date: December 15, 1994

To: Paula Jones
AmeriCorps Program Leader
NRCS, Washington, D.C.

Here is a single copy of each of the FY-95 USDA NRCS AmeriCorps project reports in Minnesota and supportive media-related materials such as brochures, newsletters, news releases/news clippings, ~~videos~~, etc.

As I reviewed these reports and talked with our agency's area conservationists and NRCS AmeriCorps project directors, I was very pleased with the quality of accomplishments and experiences throughout all of our projects.

If you have any questions about these reports, please contact me at (612) 290-3677.

MICHAEL M. PRICE
Public Affairs Specialist
AmeriCorps Project Director

Enclosures

cc:
David R. Benner, DSTC, NRCS, St. Paul, MN
Glen Kajewski, AC, NRCS, Thief River Falls, MN
Kevin Daw, AC, NRCS, Duluth, MN
John Nicholson, AC, NRCS, Rochester, MN



CONSERVATION OUTREACH

TWIN VALLEY, MINNESOTA

AMERICORPS/USDA QUARTERLY REPORT CONSERVATION OUTREACH - TWIN VALLEY, MN

Time Period: September 12 - November 30, 1994

Actual Launch Date: October 4, 1994

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT TIME OF LAUNCH: 6
2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT QUARTER END (NOV. 30): 6
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE: 1518hrs
4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING: 327hrs
5. PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES:

Time in the first quarter was utilized to gather technical information and network with other organizations to form a partnership between Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Transportation, county, and land owners. One meeting has been held with the newly formed partnership and another is scheduled.

At this time, because of program's late launch date, zero (0) miles of snow fence have been planted, however, a plan of action proposal has been submitted to the partnership.

6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In an effort to achieve the community service goals of the Americorps program expanded networking was completed. The networking was used as a way to contact perspective groups and organizations that may need assistance, or would like to help assist with community service projects.

The networking efforts resulted in the utilization of six (6) volunteers, from the Natural Resources Club of the University of Minnesota Crookston Campus, in a joint effort with Americorps members in a cleanup project of downtown Crookston. This activity helped to encourage the communities continued involvement and interest in keeping the environment clean by keeping their city clean. At the this time the community is organizing an effort to continue a regular cleanup schedule within the city. In-kind services were obtained by several area business's for the day as well.

A group effort was made by all the Americorps project members in the Northwestern region in assisting with the ground breaking of the Agassiz Recreational Trail (A.R.T.). The ground breaking activities were used as a vehicle to inform the general public about the benefits and future uses off the trail.

AMERICORPS/USDA QUARTERLY REPORT**7. PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER:**

During the next quarter we hope to obtain a commitment from each of the partners in the Living Snowfence project. We hope to have five (5) miles of Living Snowfences planned with the landowners who committed to plant.

8. PRIMARY CHALLENGES:

The timing of the actual launch date as opposed to the suggested date was a challenge in that members had already committed themselves to schools.

Child care was a disappointment. The wording of the benefits sections of the Americorps ads and brochures was misleading. One member in the Northwest cluster resigned because of the Child care problems.

The budget for travel, training, and equipment is not near enough.

Weekly meetings with the Americorps clusters is excessive. Meeting this often is a hindrance and a waste of time. Having the project groups meet each week is fine but the cluster groups should only have to meet on a as needed basis. Perhaps more flexibility needs to be incorporated into this.

Community projects that are completed at the monthly large group meeting should reflect the services that the community needs and wants. Trying to directly relate the community project to the plan of operation is difficult and does not seem necessary.

The Community Service Objectives and Community Building Objectives are confusing. These seem so similar that perhaps they could somehow be integrated into one.

9. PRIMARY TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE NEEDS:

See attached member training plans.

10. MEDIA COVERAGE:

Copies of newspaper media coverage were previously sent in by the state facilitator.

Video tape of broadcast coverage will be enclosed if available. If not available it will be sent separately at a later date.

11. OTHER CREATIVE DOCUMENTATION:

Item #1 - Group photo of Americorps members before the Crookston Cleanup project.

Item #2 - Flyer for upcoming community project.

Item #3 - Copy of letter received by Americorps members from United States Senator Paul Wellstone.

Item #4 - Copy of a Journal entry by member.

Tracy Ayon

TRAINING PLAN

Type of Training	Training is recorded in hours (H)										Trainers		
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	NRCS	Cross	Others
CPR	4H											X	
First Aid	4H											X	
Defensive Driving	8H												X
Conflict Management	3H												X
Soils		4H										X	
Right-to-know		2H										X	
Water & Wind Erosion		3H										X	
Computer													
Tree Identification													
Team Building													
Grant Writing/Proposal													
Interviewing													
Public Speaking													
Wildlife													
HIV/AIDS													
News Release/Media													
Video Production			8H										X

TRAINING PLAN

Aaron C. Neubert

Type of Training	Training is recorded in hours (H)						Trainers						
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	NRCS	Red Cross	Others
CPR	4H											X	
First Aid	4H											X	
Defensive Driving	8H												X
Conflict Management	3H												X
Soils		4H										X	
Right-to-Know		2H										X	
Water & Wind Erosion		3H										X	
Computer													
Tree Identification													
Team Building			8H										X
Grant Writing/Proposal													
Interviewing													
Public Speaking													
Wildlife													
EIV/AIDS													
News Release/Media													
Video Production				10H									X

19 9 18
 28
 18
 46
 Total = 46

TRAINING PLAN

Jeff York

35
27 hrs
So far

Type of Training	Training is recorded in hours (H)						Trainers						
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	NRCS	Red Cross	Others
	CPR	4H										X	
First Aid	4H										X		
Defensive Driving	8H												X
Conflict Management	3H												X
Soils		4H									X		
Right-to-Know		2H									X		
Water & Wind Erosion		3H									X		
Computer													
Tree Identification													
Team Building			8H										X
Grant Writing/Proposal													
Interveiwing													
Public Speaking													
Wildlife													
HIV/AIDS													
News Release/Media													
Video Production													X

EEO 4h
Sex Harassment 4h

Lingen, Nelly L.

TRAINING PLAN

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Type of Training	Training is recorded in hours (H)											Trainers		
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	NRCS	Cross	Others	
CPR	4H											X		
First Aid	4H											X		
Defensive Driving	8H												X	
Conflict Management	3H												X	
Soils		4H										X		
Right-to-Know		2H										X		
Water & Wind Erosion		3H										X		
Computer														
Tree Identification														
Team Building			8H											X
Grant Writing/Proposal														
Interviewing														
Public Speaking														
Wildlife														
HIV/AIDS														
News Release/Media														
Video Production			8H											X

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TRAINING PLAN

Musch, Katherine L.

Type of Training	Training is recorded in hours (H)											Trainers		
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.		Red		
												NRCS	Cross	Others
CPR	4H											X		
First Aid	4H											X		
Defensive Driving	8H												X	
Conflict Management	3H												X	
Soils		4H										X		
Right-to-Know		2H										X		
Water & Wind Erosion		3H										X		
Computer														
Tree Identification														
Team Building		8H											X	
Grant Writing/Proposal														
Interveiwing														
Public Speaking														
Wildlife														
HIV/AIDS														
News Release/Media														
Video Production			8H										X	

DEC 6 1994

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Name: Melissa Stommes

Supervisor: Dave Dornbusch

Init. / / / / /

Init. / / / / /

Trainers

"Training Item"	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	NRCS	Others
<u>Conservation Tillage:</u>													
Maps (Soil, Topog, Aerial)													
Scales (Soil, Topog, Aerial)													
Residue Measuring													
Definitions:													
Cons. Till, Ridge Till, etc.													
Soils		2H 2H	2H									✓	
WEO & Water Erosion			2H									✓	
Economics													
<u>Living Snowfence:</u>													
Windbreak Suitability Gr.													
Windbreak Design													
Soils													
Maps													
Planning													
Economics													

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	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	
<u>Soils :</u>												
Soil Mapping Procedures												
Soil Mapping Tech.												
Collecting Soil Profiles												
<u>Computers :</u>												
MS-Word												
UNIX												
EMail												
Spreadsheet												
<u>General:</u>												
CPR/First Aid	10/5											✓
Aids												
Team Building	10/5	7H										✓
Conflict Resolution	10/5											✓
Safety	2H										✓	
Defensive Driving	10/5											✓

DEC 6 1994

TRAINING PLAN
David D. Jacobsma

AMERICORPS
CONSERVATION OUTREACH TEAM
WARREN, MN

Training Item	Hours of Training											Trainers			
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	NRCS	SWCD	BWSR	Others
Job Orientation	40 hrs											X	X		
Safety-Workplace	3 hrs											X	X		
Equipment-Computer-Main.	4 hrs											X	X		
CPR	4 hrs											X	X		X
First Aid	4 hrs											X	X		X
Team Building		8 hrs										X	X		
Effective Presentations												X	X		
EEO/CR Activities												X	X		
Career Days												X	X		
Conflict Resolution	4 hrs											X	X		X
Community Service	3 hrs	2.5hrs										X	X		
Self Improvement/Develop.												X	X		
TQM Awareness												X	X		
Sexual Harassment												X	X		
Map/Photo Interpretation												X	X		
Newsrelease/Fact Sheet/Comm.												X	X		
NRCS Programs												X	X		
Resource Awareness															
Forestry												X	X		
Soils	8 hrs	4 hrs										X	X		
Conservation												X	X		
Environment/Ecosystem/Weather												X	X		
Water Quality												X	X		
Rangeland Plants												X	X		
Crops/Farming												X	X		
Wildlife												X	X		
Project Wild												X	X		
Project Learning Tree												X	X		
Plant Materials												X	X		
Crop Residue												X	X		
Grants Writing												X	X		

12/5/94

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages 1

To <i>Al Gredler</i>	From <i>Dean Lutz</i>
Dept./Agency	Phone #
Fax #	Fax #

RSN 7540-01-317-7268 5089-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Dean Lutz
AmeriCorps
Thief River Falls, MN

TRAINING PLAN

Type of Training	Training is recorded in hours (H)												Trainers		
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Red	NRCS	Cross	Others
CPR	4H													X	
First Aid	4H													X	
Defensive Driving	8H														X
Conflict Management	3H														X
Soils		4H										X			
Right-To-Know		2H										X			
Water & Wind Erosion		3H										X			
Computer															
Tree Identification															
Team Building		8H													X
Grant Writing/Proposal															
Interviewing															
Public Speaking															
Wildlife															
HIV/AIDS															
News Release/Media															
Video Production															

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FAX NO. 2186815598

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Training Item	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Trainers
Job Orientation	X											NRCs etc
Defensive Driving	X											others
CPR/First Aid	X											R. Cross
Conflict Resolution	X											other
Right to Know	X											NRCs
Drug Free Workplace Aids												
Sexual Harassment												
Team Building		X										others
ON THE JOB TRAINING												
Crop Residue Mngmnt												
soils												
residue measuring												
crop sequencing												
wind&water erosion equations		X										NRCs
equipment ID												
definitions												
Soil Survey												
soils mapping		X										NRCs
scales												
topography maps												
Fish&Wildlife ID maps												
sections 2&4 of Tech.guide												
Map/photo interpretations												
aerial slides/photos												
Living Snowfence												
plant materials												
design/suitability												
soils												
Plant Materials												
climatology												
land use												

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PAUL D. WELLSTONE
MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA TOLL FREE NUMBER
1-800-642-6041

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
SMALL BUSINESS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 205 10-2303

November 17, 1994

Mr. Jeff York
Soil Conservation Service
100 Main Avenue East
Twin Valley, MN 56584-0075

Dear Jeff:

Congratulations on becoming an AmeriCorps member with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service in Minnesota.

Your participation in this new and exciting national service initiative will help address environmental and human needs. I am counting on your work to get things done in your community. My expectations are high that you will be tremendously successful.

Thank you for your service to the community, state, and nation.

All my best.

Sincerely,



Paul David Wellstone
United States Senator

717 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 205 10-2303
(202) 224 5841

2550 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, WEST
COURT INTERNATIONAL BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55114-1075
(612) 645-0323

POST OFFICE BOX 281
105 2D AVENUE, SOUTH
VIRGINIA, MN 55792
(218) 741-1074

417 LITCHFIELD AVENUE, SW
WILLMAR, MN 56201
(612) 231-0001



NEMADJI RIVER BASIN PROJECT

CLOQUET, MINNESOTA

AMERICORPS/USDA QUARTERLY REPORT
CLOQUET FIELD OFFICE

A) Number of Members enrolled at end of quarter vs. number who enrolled at the time of the launch.

3 / 3

B) Total numbers of hours of direct service performed by Members and total number of hours Members were in training

821 / 306

C) Any major staff or structural changes you have made

None

D) Progress towards meeting community service objectives.

Objective #1 is to assist the Nemadji River Basin Project Planning Committee with the development and implementation of a public participation plan leading to public involvement in the development of remedial action and alternative Best Management Practices.

The plan was developed and presented to the Nemadji River Basin Project (NRBP) Planning Committee at the November meeting. After minor suggested revisions, mainly to document already accomplished items in the plan, the plan will be approved at the December 13th meeting. See attached and below for Public Participation Plan implementation activities by Americorps Members.

Objective #2 is to assist with inventory and analysis activities leading to the initial development of remedial actions and alternative Best Management Practices for the Nemadji River Watershed.

As outlined in the Americorps Project Plan the following has been accomplished: Watershed roadside erosion inventory which includes a map of the sites and associated maintenance costs; the EPPL7 geographic information system (GIS) has been learned and used to produce needed maps; two NRBP Planning Committee meetings have been attended and assisted with by the members;

aerial photos have been assembled and keyed to facilitate most of the land use inventory work; the feedlot inventory has been started; the sediment survey of Hansen dam is approximately 2/3 rd. completed;

Americorps Members Public Participation Plan accomplishments (relates to Objective #1 above): One Carlton County Conservation District Board meeting and one Carlton County Board of Commissioners meeting has been attended by all members; ten township board meetings have been attended and one Carlton County township association meeting, where a NRBP presentation has been given by members; one St. Louis River Estuary Remedial Action Plan meeting has been attended; assisted with one tour of the watershed problem areas for the NRBP Planning and Steering Committees; one NRBP fact sheet has been developed and distributed; the first NRBP newsletter has been developed, printed and sent out to 3700 landowners in the Nemadji watershed and 400 agency personnel, elected officials and interested landusers in MN and WI (copy attached); one radio program has been arranged for January; one television program has been arranged for February; one snowshoe trek has been set up in the Watershed for January (see NRBP newsletter); numerous mailing lists have been created, updated and formatted, including the 4100 NRBP newsletter mailing list; planning has been started on a television program about the Nemadji River Watershed; two separate newspaper releases have been written and have appeared in at least six separate newspapers; one radio spot was developed sent to three stations.

E) Primary accomplishments

All members attended a one week orientation in which they participated in classes such as the Americorps concept and responsibilities, CPR/Basic First Aid, defensive driving, history and mission of SCS, USFS Americorps program in MN, SCS organization structure, ASCS role in the Americorps Program. Since then they have received other training including training in computers, printer operation, geographical information systems (GIS), recognizing roadside erosion, and Hazardous Communications Right To Know training.

The Americorps Program in Cloquet has hit the ground running. The mailing list creation and roadside erosion inventory has been a good experience in working with other units of governments. Members worked with county governments to receive their resident mailing lists free of charge. They then had to

separate the lists into a master watershed landowner list. Normally these lists are not given out or have to be purchased, but they have received good cooperation from county officials and employees. State and county engineers have also been participating extensively on the roadside erosion inventory. Many meetings have been attended this first quarter in an effort to establish good relationships with all our partners in the Project. I have received many excellent comments as has my supervisor and coworkers as to the quality, enthusiasm and communication skills of the Americorps workers in Cloquet. Many public information and education activities have been set up for the second quarter.

F) Primary challenges

We have a very aggressive Americorps Project Plan of Work which will be a challenge to complete. Many watershed inventory action items will depend on the availability and use of new technologies such as GIS, and the available use and adaptability of other agency and private industry forest inventory computer information. To accomplish all the tasks we will need to secure the help of volunteers through the NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Program. We have received good cooperation from all parties involved in the Project to date and if it continues, we will go a long way towards completing all of the items in the Project Plan.

G) Primary training and technical assistance need

We have been receiving excellent assistance from state and area NRCS staff in computers, inventory methodology and in some public communication areas. Continued support in these areas is essential.

H) Media Coverage

See enclosures which include; Americorps Member generated newspaper articles, watershed newsletter, the updated Public Participated Plan and the Draft Nemadji River Basin Project Plan.

I) Other Creative Documentation

We have been exploring the possibility of sharing or combining



WHITEWATER RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

LEWISTON, MINNESOTA

FIRST QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
WHITEWATER RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT
LEWISTON, MN

1. Three AmeriCorps members were enrolled at launch
2. Three AmeriCorps members enrolled at the end of the first quarter.
3. 976 hours of direct service performed at the end of the first quarter.
4. 429 hours of training provided to AmeriCorps members at the end of the first quarter.
5. The Lewiston AmeriCorps project had five community service objectives identified to be addressed. They were:
 1. To assist in the formulation of a public participation plan through the cooperation of the Whitewater Joint Powers Board, local citizens groups, and concerned government agencies to gather local input in developing project alternatives to resolve the identified priority resource concerns.
 2. To assist in the implementation of 95% of action items from the Whitewater Public Participation Plan scheduled for completion prior to 9/30/95.
 3. To assist 100% of participating landusers develop pesticide and nutrient management plans associated with the local Water Quality Incentive Program.
 4. To develop and provide training to 100% of WQIP program participants relative to acceptable implementation of items associated with their pesticide management plans.
 5. To improve the technical application skills of two program members by 50% as measured through evaluation before and after the program relative to pesticide and nutrient management. To improve the organizational and communication skills of one program member through the successful development and implementation of the public participation plan.

Progress on the objectives relative to the Whitewater Project public participation plan has been substantial. A Citizens Action Committee has been developed to insure that input from the local populace is integrated into the plan. This committee has met eight times. They have developed a mission statement, an outline of objectives to be

addressed, a mandate on what they want to accomplish, and a deadline to complete a report of their findings.

The AmeriCorps member assigned to this objective has been instrumental in the development of this Citizen Action Committee. She petitioned for participants, set up meetings, set up technical hearings, and assisted in outline and mandate development. She has received training and assistance on this objective from NRCS water resource staff at our state office. She also coordinates technical committee and Joint Powers Board meetings.

Action items have been identified relative to the Whitewater Public Participation plan. These action items were identified by the CAC, JPB, and technical agencies involved with the project development. We are presently on schedule to complete all action items by the 9/30/95 deadline.

We are presently in the process of accepting applications for participation in the Water Quality Incentive Program. The signup period for the program is 11/28/94-12/9/94. Since our project application was approved, substantial work has gone into formulating program goals and objectives, training AmeriCorps members on the WQIP program and the technical knowledge required to implement the program, and publicizing our program to educate potential participants. Eight newspaper articles were submitted and published by AmeriCorps members. One public service announcement was completed by AmeriCorps members. Two hundred letters with fact sheets and two hundred followup postcards were forwarded to potential participants. To date, twenty five percent of potential participants have applied at the half way point of our signup period. Upon signup completion, applicants will be screened, prioritized and contracts will be developed for initiation during the 1995 crop season. These contracts will contain the nutrient and pesticide best management practices needed to address our projects water quality concerns.

Comprehensive training has been provided to AmeriCorps members to enable them to successfully address the program objectives. Employee Development Plans have been developed for members to detail training needs, document completion, and quantify members increased knowledge. Roughly forty four percent of AmeriCorps members time has been spent receiving training to ensure they are able to competently complete program objectives. This training has mainly been provided by NRCS employees.

6. The work performed by AmeriCorps members addressing community objectives to date is laying a foundation to directly impact the water quality of the Whitewater watershed. Monitoring in the watershed has shown that deterioration of the water quality has already taken place.

Questionnaires completed by citizens in the watershed have identified how important high quality potable water is to them. The work performed by members will directly affect the water quality of the watershed and improve the quality of life in the watershed.

The cluster meetings attended by members have initiated one day community service activities that have directly improved local life. Services performed include assisting in the development of an enchanted trail project to be a safe haven for children to trick or treat on Halloween, brush cleanup and trash pickup around the Elba Fire Tower, a historical structure in Winona County. In December, members will act as toy shop escorts for the Salvation Army's Christmas present program. All of these have been high profile activities and have been attended by members of the media. Articles relative to cluster meetings have been included as reference.

7. Further progress will be made relative to the public participation plan as the CAC, JPB and technical agencies address their identified goals. The AmeriCorps member assigned to the public participation plan will be instrumental in assuring that all goals established for the plan will be completed on schedule. This plan is an important component of our watershed plan of work and is vital in insuring our project is funded.

Upon completion of the WQIP signup, applicants will be screened and prioritized. The top priority applications will have long term contracts developed with technical assistance from AmeriCorps members. In the spring of 1995, scheduled best management practices will be implemented. The basis of our project is to provide technical assistance to landowners so that after contracts are completed, landusers will be able to perform their farm management activities in an enviromentally sensitive manner on their own.

8. The primary challenge for our project is that participation is on a voluntary basis. We need good communication skills and high quality technical assistance to sell our product to our clientele. We need high quality training assistance to provide our members with the tools they need to make their jobs a success. Members have identified some suggestions they have for the AmeriCorp program. They include buttons and sweatshirts haven't been delivered, weekly conference calls and weekly meetings are repetitive and time consuming and should be less frequent, and that monthly community building events should not be restricted to project objectives if something important to the community arises. All members of a cluster should be required to identify and host community building events.

One member identified that they were having problems getting forebearance for a privately funded student loan. They also were unhappy to find out that the education grant was taxed. Members have stated that the stipend is very hard to live on and that the reason they were staying with the program was that they liked the people they were working with and that they were dedicated to the work they were doing.

We have tried to stress that cluster meetings be scheduled the same day every month but that has not worked out to date. The project coordinator in Lewiston has felt that the communication between the different levels of the NRCS has been excellent but has never been contacted by the state facilitator for input relative to project. We are also not provided with copies of monthly reports from cluster meetings. If there are concerns in these reports that need to be addressed, we should be made aware of them.

9. We will continue to request in house training from NRCS specialists on specific training needs. When non agency training comes available, if applicable, participation will be requested for members. Future scheduled training is documented on members EDP's.

10. See enclosed newspaper articles and audio tape for media coverage of AmeriCorps program.

PAUL D. WELLSTONE
MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA TOLL FREE NUMBER:
1-800-642-6041

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2303

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
SMALL BUSINESS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

RECEIVED NOV 21 1994

November 17, 1994

Ms. Shelly Eckblad
Soil Conservation Service
1485 Industrial Drive NW, Rm 102
Rochester, MN 55901-0227

Dear Shelly:

Congratulations on becoming an AmeriCorps member with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service in Minnesota.

Your participation in this new and exciting national service initiative will help address environmental and human needs. I am counting on your work to get things done in your community. My expectations are high that you will be tremendously successful.

Thank you for your service to the community, state, and nation.

All my best.

Sincerely,

Paul Wellstone

Paul David Wellstone
United States Senator

717 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
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Fact Sheet

Water Quality Incentive Program (WQIP)

BACKGROUND

Water Quality Incentive Projects are funded through the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP). This new Water Quality initiative allows a landowner to receive an incentive payment for implementing certain management practices. The goal of the WQIP is to achieve a source reduction of nonpoint source agricultural pollutants in an environmentally and economically sound manner.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Landusers in the Middle Branch of the Whitewater River Watershed will have the opportunity to implement a three year Water Quality Resource Management Plan (WQRMP).

Participating landusers will be provided the necessary technical assistance needed to implement their WQRMP.

Practices that may be eligible for incentive payments are:

Conservation Cover	Planned Grazing
Crop Rotation	Proper Grazing Use
Conservation Tillage	Contour Strip Cropping
Contour Farming	Pasture/Hayland Planting
Field Strips	Waste Utilization
Livestock Exclusion	Wildlife Wetland Habitat
Mulching	Wildlife Upland Habitat
Pasture/Hayland Mgt	Nutrient Management
Pest Management	

INCENTIVE PAYMENTS

The incentive payments are based on:

- the management practice(s) needed
- acreage or extent of practices applied
- the incentive payment rate for the specific practices applied.
- WQIP payments are limited to \$3,500 per year for a maximum of three years

SIGN-UP

Applications for participating in the WQIP will be accepted during a sign-up period beginning November 28 and ending at 4:30pm December 9. Sign up at the ASCS office where your farm records are administered.



**PASTURELAND/GRASSLAND
MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

**HIAWATHA VALLEY RC&D OFFICE
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA**

FIRST QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
PASTURELAND/GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT
USDA/NRCS HIAWATHA VALLEY RC&D OFFICE
ROCHESTER, MN

TIME PERIOD: September 12 - November 1994

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH

0/1

2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE QUARTER (NOV 30)

1/1

3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED

319.5

4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING

207.5

5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective #1 is to improve the forage/grassland conditions to the good or excellent category on 5000 acres. (Effort will focus on plan development/implementation with 50 producers across 11 counties)

Objective #2 is to improve water quality as measured through water quality criteria as outlined in the USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide on 90% of the tracts receiving assistance.

Objective #3 is to enhance profitability of grassland agriculture as measured through economic considerations as outlined in the USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide on 90% of tracts receiving assistance.

Much of the effort during the first quarter as expected, was devoted to training development to prepare the member technically to work with clientele to meet the community service objectives. About 10% of the member's time has been devoted to pre-planning and development action items of the community service objectives as outlined in the plan of work. These efforts have not resulted in plan implementation by any producers or improvement of any acres to the good or excellent category to date. We expect that progress in producer plan development will take off in the next quarter during the winter months. Implementation of plans (goal 50) and subsequent improvements of acres (goal 5000); realistically, will not be achieved until the growing season during the third and fourth quarters.

6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Several action items under the community service objectives have been addressed by the member. A quarterly meeting with the eleven district conservationists of the Hiawatha Valley RC&D was conducted to outline project objectives and make contact referrals. A media strategy to keep clientele informed of project opportunities has been initiated. The member met with FSA CED to discuss financial assistance to clientele through the ACP program.

The member made contacts and met with several organizations to develop cooperative arrangements for the project including the Land Stewardship Project, Southeast Minnesota Grazing Clubs, Whitewater Watershed Project, and the Hiawatha Valley RC&D Council. She participated in a pasture walk with local grazing clubs to meet principals and identify major producer concerns. She participated in the regional Hiawatha Grazing Conference to further develop cooperative networking opportunities. She delivered a presentation to the RC&D Council which brought about the adoption of strategies to improve the long-term condition of the resource base. She summarized public input to an RC&D function to prioritize area needs for the council relevant to forage/grassland opportunities.

The member participated in community service activities conducted in conjunction with the monthly cluster meetings. The October activity assisted River Bend Nature Center with a trail activity which is part of the work plan of one of the Forest Service AmeriCorps cluster members. The November activity assisted with brush control at the fire tower at Whitewater State Park.

The member's technical application skills as measured through evaluation before and after training and self-development were improved by some 20%. The member attended a one week orientation which included AmeriCorps Concept, agency organizational structure/programs, team USDA, responsibilities/code of ethics, public information activities, conflict resolution, team building, defensive driving and first aid/CPR. Training on the Field office Technical Guide, Resource Conservation Planning, Conservation Planning and Implementation, and Pasture/Grassland training has been conducted by several NRCS specialists including the ARC, SRC, Conservation Agronomist, Area Conservationist, NRI Specialist; Extension Service, and other personnel. A six page Employee Development Plan was developed at the start of the project. Nearly two-thirds of the training outlined as needed has been completed.

7. PROJECT OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER

We expect that a majority of input will be devoted to the development of pasture/grassland management plans with producers during the second quarter Winter months. Our goal during the Second quarter is to work on development plans with 20 producers.

8. PRIMARY CHALLENGES

The primary challenge for this project is in that although the need for pasture/grassland management and benefits to the resource base are readily recognized; the process, procedures and technical providers (AmeriCorps applicants or otherwise locally in general) are not an exact well-defined process that is readily available in this area. This is an ambitious project to achieve within the 1700 hour time constraints of the member appointment. Yet, there is so much to be gained. The second quarter should tell us more as to how reasonable it is to prepare/train an AmeriCorps member to provide this kind of direct service toward achieving the levels of community service outlined within a ten month period of time.

About 25% of the members time inputs to date have been devoted to AmeriCorps conference calls and weekly meetings, cluster meetings and activities, reports and preparation for these activities. Much of this is not directly related to the member's community service objectives. We agree that cluster meetings/activities are good for the members growth and development, but question whether this extent is needed considering the circumstances of this cluster. To clarify, our cluster has 6 AmeriCorps members (4 NRCS, 2 FS) working with 4 different projects in 5 separate locations.

9. PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

The kind of member training that is needed for this project is comparable to a condensed version of that which a NRCS Soil Conservationist would need prior to farm planning with a district cooperator. This includes training to provide a working knowledge on the Field Office Technical Guide, conservation planning and implementation, and specific Pasture/Grassland Management training. An employee development plan outlining specifics has been developed. The NRCS has been very cooperative toward providing the expertise of technical specialists and resources needed in a timely manner to technically prepare the member.

10. MEDIA COVERAGE